Daily Report

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'Over 2,000' Illegally Cross Border With SFRY

AU1604185091 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1800 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Over 2,000 people from the Tropoje highlands illegally crossed the state border with Yugoslavia on 15 April to celebrate the Muslim festival of Greater Bajram together with their Kosovar brethren. For the details, here is a report from our reporter Ilir Bushpataj:

[Bushpataj] A large number of citizens of all ages crossed the state border into Yugoslavia. Their intention was to celebrate the Muslim festival of Greater Bajram together with their brethren in Djakovica and in the surrounding villages in the region.

The main body crossed the border in the Qafe e Morines region. The border guards called on them to turn back, pointing out the illegality as well as the danger of their action; however, they failed to heed the warnings and crossed the border in groups. On the other side of the border, they were checked by Yugoslav border guards, who induced them to return to our side of the border. Physical force was used on some occasions. Back on Albanian territory, these citizens were allowed to return to their homes.

People's Assembly Opens Proceedings

AU1604142791 Tirana ATA in English 0827 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Tirana, April 16 (ATA)—The newly-elected People's Assembly of the PSR [People's Socialist Republic] of Albania, whose deputies emerged from the first pluralist elections of March 31 and the second tour held on April 7, convened on April 15 afternoon.

Attending were also members of the Presidential Council, the government, leaders of political parties, institutions, Albanian and foreign journalists, as well as heads and officials of the diplomatic representations accredited in Tirana, and others.

The deputies present in the hall and guests burst into applause when the chairman of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, Comrade Ramiz Alia, entered the hall.

The deputies of the Democratic Party did not attend this session of the first multi-party Assembly.

On behalf of the 10 senior deputies, the proceedings of the Assembly were declared open by the deputy of the Party of Labour of Gjirokaster District, Adil Carcani, who said among the other things:

It is a great honor for me to wholeheartedly thank from this high rostrum, our wonderful people for the great trust they put in us, electing us to the supreme organ of the state power and on this occasion, I assure you we will remain their loyal sons, resolute fighters for preserving freedom and independence of the homeland, for strengthening national unity, we will work unsparingly for the all-sided development and progress of the country, for strengthening the economy, education, culture, science, the non-stop uplift of the wellbeing of the people and Albania's complete integration in the European and world democratic processes.

The electors gave their votes for all us deputies in order to express their lofty interests, so as to solve in this Assembly those vital problems the people are engaged in. So all of us should have a lofty feeling of responsibility.

I deplore the non-participation of the group of deputies of the Democratic Party in the first session of this important legislature of the People's Assembly under the pretext of lack of final report on the tragic and painful event which took place in Shkoder, which claimed four casualties, he said further on.

The non-participation on their part not only creates a vacuum which runs contrary to the desire of electors who voted on March 31, but it is not right either to put the party interests above the national interests. As all the programs of almost all the parties declare, the national interests lie above all other interests. On the other hand, where more than in the People's Assembly, a pluralist Parliament, can one raise and give solutions or explanations for such painful and undesirable events as those which occurred in Shkoder?

The March 31 elections for deputies to the People's Assembly in our country were held for the first time under the conditions of political pluralism and were held successfully. They showed that our cultured, wise people, as the foreign observers confirmed, love and observe democracy. Now it is our duty, the duty of the new People's Assembly, to further promote the democratic processes in Albania.

The first important step we took with the free and democratic elections, the speaker said in conclusion, fills us with joy and enhances our optimism to undertake greater tasks in this direction.

The deputy of the Party of Labour, Fehmi Abdiu, on behalf of a group of deputies, proposed the composition of the commission for the verification of mandates and immunity, which was approved on a majority of votes. He said that two members of this group, deputies of the DP (Democratic Party, did not attend the Assembly.

While the deputy Adil Carcani declared the proceedings of the first sitting of the People's Assembly closed, Neritan Ceka, head of the parliamentary group of the Democratic Party asked to take the floor. He voiced the known demand of the Democratic Party for the postponement of the proceedings of this Assembly until those responsible for the killing of the four persons and wounding of the other 50 ones in the city of Shkoder are defined.

The deputy of Tropoje district, Lush Perpali, demanded further explanations about the non-participation of the DP deputies in this first pluralist assembly, underlining

that this does not serve the clarification of the present situations and the people's unity. The deputy Neritan Ceka did not give explanations and left the hall.

The deputy of Skrapar District, Ali Alushani, speaking on behalf of a group of deputies of the PLA, veterans' national committees, and the Omonia organisation, deplored the non-participation in this assembly by the deputies of the DP, underlining that this "is a political veto which is not conform to the democratic dialogue."

The deputies of the organization "Omonia" dissociated themselves from this statement, underlining that they have not given authorization for it.

Then the floor was also taken by Fehmi Abdiu, who called once again on the deputies of the DP to attend the proceedings of this assembly, which is capable to solve all the questions facing the people and adopt the measures to settle the problems concerning them which was also the pretext for their non-participation in this Assembly. All the deputies backed up this appeal.

As this the first day proceedings ended, the deputy Adil Carcani, who presided over the sitting, reported that the Assembly will continue its proceedings on Wednesday, at 17.00.

PRSh Issues Statement on Shkoder Events

AU1604162291 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1600 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] A statement issued by the Republican Party [PRSh] in connection with the Shkoder events states that the official stand is unacceptable. No individual has been indicted as yet for the killing of four persons and the wounding of 56 others. There is no justification at all for this. The statement goes on to say that this leads to the country's disunity and the exacerbation of social conflicts.

The PRSh calls on the government to conclude the investigation immediately, to bring those responsible before the courts, and to punish them in an exemplary manner, so no one dares to raise their weapons against the people.

President Alia Receives European Parliamentarians

AU1604141191 Tirana ATA in English 0818 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Tirana, April 16 (ATA)—On April 15, before noon, Comrade Ramiz Alia, chairman of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the PSR [People's Socialist Republic] of Albania, received at the seat of the Presidium of the People's Assembly the delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the European Council.

Comrade Ramiz Alia had a warm and friendly talk with the members of the delegation. After evaluating their visit to Albania, he said among the other things that irrespective of different political views, the European peoples and countries are cementing more and more friendship and are getting closer with one another. This is something good and in this respect we will make all efforts on the new road of democratic developments in our country, said Comrade Ramiz Alia. In this context he appreciated the role of the Parliamentary Assembly of the European Council and expressed Albania's readiness to fully commit itself in it.

Comrade Ramiz Alia briefed the members of the delegation on the democratic processes which are promoting in our country, the difficulties we have come across on the road, the all-sided development, the political and economic state, and other problems of life in our country.

The members of the delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the European Council thanked Comrade Ramiz Alia for the reception and briefings on Albania. We realize the difficulties your country is coming across, they said, and we expect you will overcome them, so as Albania becomes a member with full rights of the European Council. Our mission is to closely follow the democratic developments in Albania and to this end we will forward a special report to the European Council.

In the course of the meeting they exchanged views on some aspects of the international situation.

The reception was attended by Muhamet Kapllani, minister for foreign affairs.

National Assembly Passes Competition Bill

AU1704091191 Sofia BTA in English 2034 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 16 (BTA)—Today parliament passed at first reading the competition protection bill and started debates on the foreign investment protection bill. The two bills are part of the package of priority laws decisive for the further progress of the economic reform. The M.P.'s also continued the preliminary discussion of Chapter 1 of the draft Constitution, the country's basic law.

An M.P. of the SDS [Union of Democratic Forces] who spoke on conditions of anonymity said that parliament must pass the competition and the foreign investment acts, the business act and a couple of other economic laws and then dissolve itself. He believes that the need for the passage of these acts made that part of the opposition, which insisted on early elections, give up its intention to walk out of parliament, convinced as it is that with the present socialist majority it is impossible to pass a truly democratic constitution. He also said that the SDS is considering a possibility to leave parliament after the prioritized economic laws are passed, to touch off a parliamentary crisis and cause the conduct of new parliamentary elections in July at the latest.

For the first time the legality of the 1946 referendum which led to the declaration of the republic was called into question. An M.P. of the SDS pointed out that when discussing the draft constitution it is worth considering the idea of a monarchy or a possible referendum which would give the people a chance to determine Bulgaria's form of government.

BSP Briefing on Elections, Chernobyl Trial

AU1604174491 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1500 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] At today's regular news briefing of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] representatives of the BSP leadership pointed out with satisfaction the intensive work of the Grand National Assembly during the past week.

Georgi Pirinski expressed the view that the Assembly has entered its most important and essential stage of activities—namely a period in which common sense finally prevails.

Asked about the nomination of BSP candidates for the coming local elections, Dimitur Yonchev said that, "We are convinced that we should not build the local elections campaign on purely ideological and political slogans related to nationwide issues. We would agree to support candidates who are not even BSP members but who are respected by the people and are capable of solving local problems."

Urged to comment on the Chernobyl trial, Yonchev described it as an attempt to accumulate assets for the election campaign on the part of the opposition rather than a real effort to deal with the culprits'responsibility.

The BSP representatives expressed their concern about the threats of brutal mass attacks against Socialists and about the extremist slogans raised by yesterday's rally and procession organized by the Union of Democratic Forces.

BSP Reform Movement Publishes Declaration

AU1604125091 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 11 Apr 91 p 4

[Declaration issued by "representatives" of Bulgarian Socialist Party Movement for Radical Reform; place and date not given]

[Text] Ever since the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] took its seats in the legislature, the SDS deputies every now and then threaten to walk out by periodically staging legislative crises. Their minimum program is actually a method of blackmailing the majority. Their maximum program, on the other hand, was transparent from the very beginning, but it became even more evident on Easter Monday when, shortly after Christ's resurrection, the SDS Coordinating Council declared its intention of leaving the Grand National Assembly.

Some of the SDS deputies insist on two major requests that should be promptly and simultaneously satisfied—namely that the Grand National Assembly should be disbanded, without adopting the constitution, and that the next legislative election should be scheduled for June 1991. Despite the practice of roll call vote in the legislature, the National Assembly is not a public rally, and a public rally is not the legislature. Nevertheless, certain politicians seem to mix up the two concepts. How much more evidence is required to make the people in question understand what this kind of behavior means in view of the current conditions characterized by political polarization, social instability, economic crisis, and a simmering ethnic conflict?

A group of SDS legislators actually work against the National Assembly, the president, and against the government. They are not afraid of blocking the economic reform, of obstructing the Grand National Assembly's legislative activities, of destroying the only political structure that was elected by the people, of disrupting the democratic processes in our country, and even of disgracing the legislative form of government. They evidently think their accidental election to the Grand National Assembly is a necessary, but sufficient condition guaranteeing their place in history, and especially in the family chronicle. They are convinced that the Grand National Assembly was elected for the sole purpose of serving their own honor and glory, after which it may be disbanded. They evidently prefer the illegitimate and anticonstitutional, provisional people's councils executive committees to legally elected local entities. In a neo-Bolshevik style they declared that the "peaceful transition" is nothing but a routine phrase from which

the "peaceful" should be eliminated, irrespective of the signed agreement. The SDS deputies in question do not wish the present legislature to adopt the constitution (do they really wish a new constitution at all?), despite the fact that they recognized the same body as legitimate. We realize that the present legislature is not up to the standard of their refined, political taste. We are perfectly aware of the fact that they would recognize only those elections as legitimate in which a political force called SDS would be victorious, while other parties should not even be allowed to cross the threshold of the future National Assembly. They not only do not want the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] to be a ruling party, they do not even want it to be an opposition. Their greatest wish would be that the BSP should disappear altogether, that it should not exist either in or outside the legislature. They pronounce such statements with a Goebbels-like intonation. They show a lack of imagination and also their poor knowledge of our most recent history; therefore, even if they do not wish to hear it, they should be told that they are actually reviving long rejected and forgotten habits of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] from the forties. Let us just remind them that once upon a time, the BCP regarded the opposition not as a political factor, but as a harmful phenomenon that should be overcome and eliminated. We all perfectly remember how this "harmful phenomenon" was "overcome." Another question is that certain politicians have decided to organize their own "9 September" and thus to evoke some well-known political ghosts.

All these circumstances suggest that the former slogans will be updated, and instead of the past slogans: "45 years are enough!" and "The time belongs to us," new posters are likely to appear on the walls and fences of the city bearing inscriptions such as: "Facing elections daily, until the final victory!" (to avoid extra-legislative pressure).

Let us not forget that the majority of deputies voted in favor of pursuing legislative work. Thank God, their wish was independent from their party affiliations. The group of "blue" legislative members who are against dissolving the Grand National Assembly before it has accomplished its task sufficiently confirms this fact. The appearance of the group is by no means accidental, considering that the SDS has also its own dissidents.

Esteemed gentlemen, you should, once and for all, settle your own dilemma: Whether you are ready to work, or to walk out. Your legislative seats can be occupied by the people whose names appear next on the proportional lists, while for the deputies elected according to the majority system, by-elections can be held. We are just asking you not to divert the attention of those who are genuinely willing to work for democracy and for Bulgaria, and to do their jobs properly.

Signed: Velislava Durev, Dimitur Ivanov, Dragomir Draganov, Emil Bekhar, Iskra Baeva, Chavdar Krustev, Yanaki Stoilov—representatives of the BSP Radical Reform Movement.

P.S. We deliberately abstained from using the world "opposition" in mentioning the SDS on the grounds that the union is already a co-governing force.

Stoichkov Pleads Not Guilty at Chernobyl Trial

AU1604203791 Sofia BTA in English 1937 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 16 (BTA)—As expected, at today's hearing the defendant Grigor Stoichkov pleaded not guilty and denied personal responsibility for the higher health hazards to which the population of Bulgaria had been exposed after the Chernobyl disaster. He said that immediately after the catastrophe adequate measures had been taken, the radiation load not only did not exceed the permissible levels but was even far below them, there was no information black-out, just lack of experience and preparedness.

According to the former chairman of the Governmental Commission on the Management of Natural Disasters and Large-Scale Industrial Accidents, this trial marks the end of a long campaign against him. He believes it was provoked by biased publications, TV and radio programs and by manipulations of public opinion. "I was all but declared culprit for the catastrophe," the defendant complained and added that Bulgaria is the only place where such a trial has been staged.

Mr. Stoichkov ascribed the charges and the "slander" against him to ignorance of the truth about those troubled days and to the present "black-out aimed at creating suspicion and tension." He asked why the Prosecutor's Office ignores disinformation and spreads disinformation itself.

The defendant dismissed the charges that he had assumed people could die or suffer bodily harm. "These are monstrous charges, totally inconsistent to my character and style," he exclaimed.

He found it scandalous that the indictment failed to indicate clearly and unequivocally the truth expressed at international conferences and symposia: "The Bulgarian population suffered no health and biological effects of the trans-boundary pollution." The presentation and the interpretation of the rights and obligations of the commission he had been in charge of was defined as "gross manipulation by the prosecution." The defendant said that the commission was responsible only for calamities inside the country and its regulations made no mention of words like "radiation" and "becquerel."

He confessed that he got familiar with the terms "radiation" and "becquerel" only after the accident and said he had asked for expert opinion on the matter. Recalling the measures taken in the first days after the accident he made it clear that they had been limited to measurements. He had personally insisted on monitoring the open water sources.

The defendant said that his commission had nothing to do with the problems of trans-boundary pollution which were within the competence of the Committee for the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy and Civil Defense.

Unexpectedly, the ball landed in the BTA court; the prosecutor Mrs. Milka Boyadzhieva asked who wrote the BTA report published in the press on May 24, 1986 and saying that the existing restrictions had been lifted and background radiation was within the natural limits. The name of General Sultov of the Civil Defense was mentioned in connection with this report.

Mr. Stoichkov said that the report did not come from the government and had no outgoing number from the Civil Defense.

The defendant mentioned a letter saying that the results of the readings taken by the Chief Administration of Hydrology and Metereology were deliberately elevated so that the laboratory assistant could get extra danger money. A similar, more detailed letter had been sent to parliament as well.

Only during the investigation Grigor Stoichkov got to know that the former Alternate member of Politburo of the CC [Central Committee] of the BCP [Bulgarian Communist Party] Georgi Yordanov and Academician Blagovest Sendov had been engaged in a study of "hot" particles and in gathering samples but he knew neither about their research, nor about its results.

The trial will continue tomorrow with the questioning of the defendant Lyubomir Shindarov, former first deputy minister of health and sanitary inspector general.

Disruptions Outside Palace of Justice

AU1604171491 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1500 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] [Announcer] This afternoon Mr. Nikolay Osikovski, official spokesman and head of the information and analytical service of the Sofia Internal Affairs Directorate, made the following statement on today's incident that occurred in front of the Palace of Justice.

[Osikovski] My statement is connected with this morning's incident, which occurred in front of the Palace of Justice between a group of citizens and employees of the Sofia Internal Affairs' Directorate who were in charge of protecting order and security during the Chernobyl trial.

I am in a position to submit a few details related to the incident. To begin with, I would like to say that as a result of yesterday's disruptions of public order a meeting was called by Mr. Lozanchev, deputy chairman of the Supreme Court, with leading officials of the security forces from the Sofia Internal Affairs Directorate. At the meeting the order of access to Hall No. 23, where the legal proceedings are taking place, was settled on the basis of permits, while the observance of discipline in the Palace of Justice was discussed.

Today, at about 0920 in Alabin Street, in the immediate vicinity of the Palace of Justice, about 100 people gathered within a short time who approached the personnel entrance of the Palace, disregarding the presence of the two militia men on guard. They headed for Hall No. 23 where the trial was in process. Security guards stopped the group in front of the hall. After the security services warned the citizens not to disturb the legal proceedings and at the request of the court administration, the group was removed from the building.

No force or compulsory methods were used by the security service during the incident.

Trade Union Declaration on Economic Reform

AU1204143091 Sofia TRUD in Bulgarian 5 Apr 91 p 1

[Declaration of Executive Committee of Confederation of Independent Trade Unions adopted at a 4 April meeting of the Executive Committee]

[Text] A new legislative and political crisis has been developing in the country in recent weeks. The confrontation between the basic political forces represented in the Grand National Assembly intensifies. Accusations are leveled at the government and the economic ministries in connection with the economic reform. New passions are inflamed regarding the 100 days of social peace and the first stage of the reform.

The Executive Committee of the Confederation of the Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria, after conducting an expanded meeting with the chairmen of the federations and trade unions, and a consultative meeting with the "Podkrepa" Labor Confederation, deems it necessary to declare the following:

First: We again confirm that we do not share the optimistic assessment of the economic reform's progress. The stabilization and anticrisis measures do not have the necessary support and understanding of those who must have a decisive role in their application—the economic leaderships of the companies and enterprises. The high prices, mass unemployment, and wage reductions are intolerable for a significant part of the population.

Second: The economic reform does not receive the necessary legislative support on the part of the Grand National Assembly. The second stage of the reform needs a new momentum, which must be prompted by demonopolization, privatization, and expanding economic autonomy, placed on a lasting and reliable legislative foundation. Economic restructuring and competition can exist if guarantees for investments, including by private and foreign capital, are created. The economic model will not be changed until a new Trade Law is adopted.

Third: The criticism and pressure applied on a part of the political forces represented in the Grand National Assembly, confirm that in 1990 the independent trade unions twice correctly posed the question regarding the

efficiency of the legislature's work, and in February 1991—the question about the responsibility of the economic leaders for the progress of the reform. Therefore we support all constructive and legitimate forms of influencing the legislature and the economic structures. We shall continue to cooperate with the government to replace those leaders of companies and enterprises, who proved their inability to manage under market conditions.

Fourth: The new crisis situation requires a permanent and broad dialogue aimed at finding the correct solution, which would not block the economic reform or place the country in the position of a new international isolation. We think that immediate consultations must take place on this issue between the basic political forces, the government, and the trade unions. Simultaneously, we appeal to the government, despite the difficulties and contradictions to refrain from postponing the most important economic, financial, and social measures, marked by the Agreement on Social Peace.

We declare that the Confederation of the Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria will approach the situation that emerged in a responsible and constructive manner, and will do everything possible to protect the interests of the employees at the present complex and dramatic period.

Defense Ministry Assesses Army Training

AU1604120891 Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 11 Apr 91 pp 1, 3

[Captain Ivan Ganev report: "Positive Results Under Difficult Conditions"]

[Text] Yesterday, an expanded collegium of the Ministry of Defense discussed the results of the work related to combat training and combat readiness in the Bulgarian Army during the winter season and pertaining to the future tasks of the summer season.

Commanders of various Armed Forces branches, such as Lieutenant General Angelov, Lieutenant General Sinapov, and Vice Admiral Pavlov took the floor to speak on a report distributed in advance. A common tendency to overcome outdated cliches and the phraseology of the recent past was evident from the statements. Shortcomings and the reasons for them were accurately described and specifically pointed out. The objective obstacles to efficiency were enumerated without any efforts to justify the errors committed.

Breaches of discipline, violations during guard duty, outdated cliches and ideas still prevailing in the vocabulary of numerous commanders, the evaluation of shortcomings on the basis of outdated criteria, the requirement for new forms and methods of moral-psychological training to educate the soldiers in the spirit of everlasting virtues were mentioned by the speakers. Concern was expressed about the shortage of rank and file personnel and of commanding staffs in certain units, but complaints about the poor educational level of the newly recruited soldiers were also heard.

Lieutenant General Angelov proposed to introduce the post of legal experts above a certain military level. The proposal was accepted with great approval.

Colonel General Radnyu Minchev, first deputy minister of defense and chief of the General Staff, divided the reasons for failing in the accomplishment of certain tasks during the winter season into objective and subjective ones. He pointed out the acute shortage of fuel that caused the cancellation of training exercises and the shortage of rank and file personnel and commanding staffs as some of the objective reasons for failure.

Among the subjective reasons he listed the following: Certain officers' lack of self-confidence based on their conviction that their profession has no future; the poor level of discipline, breaches of military statutes, encroachments on the principle of one-man command; irresponsibility; theft and misappropriation; attempts by certain political force at direct and indirect interference in army life that are not always properly rebuked.

Colonel General Radnyu Minchev pointed out that some mass media continue to publish biased materials on the Army based on distorted or untruthful facts. He added that NARODNA ARMIYA has also committed such mistakes.

Defense Minister Mutafchiev expressed the view that the difficult international and domestic situation certainly reflects on Army life, which also applies to public life in general.

The results of the winter season had to be achieved under extremely complicated conditions aggravated by the transition to new training programs and a new educational process. The new methods showed positive aspects, but also negative ones that should be avoided. The drastic shortage of material resources and financial means resulting from the current inflation and economic crisis contributed to the situation. The far-reaching changes underway in our country and the difficulties connected with them have upset the planning activities of the Bulgarian Army.

Minister Mutafchiev stressed that, despite the difficult conditions, the most essential tasks were successfully fulfilled. Finally, he described the basic trends of training activities mapped out for the forthcoming summer season and called attention to certain urgent problems, the solution of which should not be postponed.

Political Parties Discuss Privatization Bill

AU1504142791 Sofia BTA in English 1329 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 15 (BTA)—The parliamentary political forces' leaders are scheduled to hold their first consultations on privatization this afternoon, Mr. Ginyo Ganev, deputy chairman of parliament, told the press today.

The consultations are organized on the initiative of the Bureau of the Grand National Assembly. President Zhelyu Zhelev, Prime Minister Dimitur Popov and

chairmen of parliamentary committees working on the privatization bill have been invited to attend.

Mr. Aleksandur Dzherov MP of the SDS [Union of Democratic Forces] and chairman of the Legislative Committee, said that the political forces should first reach an agreement on the principles of privatization before proceeding with the bill itself because, if submitted directly at a plenary session, it will cause an inevitable clash. He also noted that the difficulties over the Land Act had been ironed out and it was successfully passed in a similar way. He emphasized that the problems with the large city house property expropriated in the late 40's under the previous regime should be settled before privatization. Just like the Land Act settled the farm land problem, a solution should be found to the city property problem, though it is much more complicated, Mr. Dzherov said probably alluding to the different views which the political forces take of the return of the expropriated factories, shops and houses to their owners.

Government Decision on Indexation Reported

AU1504181891 Sofia DEMOKRATSIYA in Bulgarian 10 Apr 91 p 1

[Nora Stoichkova report: "Delivery of Reactor Postponed"]

[Excerpts] On 9 April the Council of Ministers adopted a special decree on supplements to the indexation for the period until December 1990. Pensions will be increased by 16 leva, children's benefits by 13 leva, student and graduate student stipends by 25 leva, stipends for high school students over the age of 18 by 10 leva, and a supplement for home assistance to the pensions of disabled people will be 14 leva.

A differentiated approach was adopted in compensating the incomes in January 1991. The income of persons engaged in companies and other economic organizations will [future tense as published] be compensated by 42.7 percent. Payments from the budget will be compensated by 27 percent. [sentence as published] The compensation of the pensions for January will be 40 leva, children's benefits—32 leva, stipends—25 leva, stipends of high school students—10 leva, a supplement for home assistance to the disabled people's pensions—14 leva, and a supplement for bringing up children age 2 to 3—45 leva. Temporary disability due to illness or pregnancy, and unemployment insurance will be compensated by 27 percent. [passage omitted]

The government approved a request to the Paris Club to reschedule the state debt. Those are state credits granted to the Bulgarian Foreign Trade Bank by the governmental creditors and their agencies, which participate in the club. The request relates to rescheduling the credits received by 1 January 1991 for a period of 14 years, with a period of almost eight years, during which no payments will be made.

Trade Deficit With Hungary Analyzed

AU1604183391 Sofia BTA in English 1554 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 16 (BTA) —Friendship and cooperation within the CMEA left Bulgaria's trade with Hungary with a deficit of 87 million transferable rubles, a high-ranking Foreign Economic Relations Ministry said that in 1991 the top priority of trade with Hungary will be to redress this imbalance.

Last year the two countries conducted normal trade, though in a considerably smaller size than in previous years. Bulgaria exported goods worth 90 million and imported goods worth 42 million transferable rubles. This amounts to 83 per cent of the import and 40.9 per cent of the export envisaged under the 1990 trade protocol.

In the first two months of 1991 the situation was alarming. The Bulgarian ministry described bilateral trade as "slack." Bulgarian companies exported goods estimated to total 14 million dollars and 7 million transferable rubles, while the import ran up to a mere 2 million dollars.

After President Zhelyu Zhelev's visit to Hungary trade is expected to be reinvigorated. An agreement is expected to be signed on a switch to dollar accounting along with a protocol settling transferable ruble liabilities which will neutralize trade contract balances.

The official believes that it will be impossible to talk about normal trade and economic relations with Hungary before next year.

KNSB Leadership Discusses Property, Strikes

AU1604180091 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1500 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] [Announcer] The Coordinating Council of the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria [KNSB] held a session today. The question of property was discussed in connection with the opinion recently expressed by the Grand National Assembly and the government on the possibility of the state claiming the property of the former official trade unions. This was the reason why I invited Petur Donchev to the studio:

[Donchev] Our meeting ended with a decision that I already announced, but which I will repeat. The KNSB Coordinating Council is convinced that it would be in the interest of political and social peace to recognize the following principles and tenets. I will not focus on the details, but will point out only the most important aspects:

The KNSB is the legal successor of the former trade unions. It refuses to accept any political responsibility, however, for the actions of the former official trade unions, the decision points out. The Confederation declares that the efforts to force a different approach to the trade unions' property would be a reason to cancel the agreement on social peace and for independent

actions in defense of the KNSB's members. In addition to this, the Coordinating Council intends to pursue its contacts with the Podkrepa Labor Confederation on the issue of the trade unions' property.

A session of the KNSB National Strike Committee is currently in progress. It also deals with the question of property, but I am convinced that even if we were to adopt a decision on readiness for a strike, we would respect the social peace. It is our conviction that only talks at the negotiating table can settle the problems. In addition to this, the Coordinating Council discussed the sociopolitical situation and pointed out that the KNSB is not a supporter of nationwide strike actions in this difficult period of hardships affecting our country.

[Announcer] Thank you.

Former State Security Official on KGB Activity

AU1604101491 Sofia BTA in English 0933 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 16 (BTA)—Colonel General Georgi Shopov of the former State Security Services in Bulgaria confirmed that there were KGB officers in the Bulgarian Secret Services and said that the so-called regenerative process was a mistake.

Col. Gen. Georgi Shopov, former first deputy minister of the interior, said in an interview for "TRUD" that Soviet secret agents came to Bulgaria immediately after September 9, 1944. Gen. Shopov added that all the abuses in this period and particularly the trials against the opposition were assisted by the Soviet KGB agents.

According to Gen. Shopov, who was in charge of the counterintelligence, at first there were Soviet advisers in almost all regional militia departments in Bulgaria, their total number reaching up to 15 or 16. These advisers enjoyed diplomatic immunity and used the ID cards of the Bulgarian Secret Services thus gaining free access everywhere.

Gen. Shopov asserts that with time the Soviet advisers stopped interfering in the work of the Bulgarian Secret Services and restricted themselves to collecting and sending to Moscow only the information that was of interest to them. They disagreed with the forcible assimilation campaign but did not oppose it. "We made a mistake," Gen. Shopov says in connection with the campaign.

Gen. Shopov said that seven or eight years before 1984 there was a similar campaign in the region of Smolyan in southern Bulgaria. It was launched by the local authorities and ran smoothly because the people there were for the most part Bulgarian Mohammedans.

This seems to have appealed to many comrades, including some from the top leadership, and they even grumbled that the neighboring region of Kurdzhali did nothing to promote the Bulgarian spirit, Gen. Shopov said. According to him, that was when the Militia and the Secret Services appeared on the scene, because for them the campaign was mission No. 1 assigned by the Communist Party. According to Gen. Shopov, it was after the "expansion of the campaign" that the former Central Committee and the Politburo of the Bulgarian Communist Party intervened.

Gen. Shopov qualified as "mere sensation" the mass media reports implicating of former Interior Minister Dimitur Stoyanov's being involved in the murder of the Bulgarian dissident writer Georgi Markov in London, as well as of General Shopov's personal participation in another similar incident.

"But I am not sure whether this is the whole truth...." Gen. Shopov said. He claimed that although he was first deputy minister, he had not to be informed about everything that went on at the ministry.

Journalists Urge Zhelev To Release Personal File

AU1604191391 Sofia BTA in English 1724 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 16 (BTA)—BTA today released an address to President Zhelyu Zhelev by Mr. Ivo Indzhev, director general of BTA, Mr. Dragomir Shopov, editor-in-chief of "ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME," and Mr. Boyko Stankushev, director of TV Channel One.

"We would like, Mr. President, to request that your police file be made available to the media. We realize this is going to be a political act," the journalists write. They emphasize that they believe political speculations over the police files should be brought to an end. The address suggests that an open discussion on the matter should start with the police file of Bulgaria's politician Number One.

Mr. Ivo Indzhev, Mr. Dragomir Shopov and Mr. Boyko Stankushev call on the competent state authorities to make public Dr. Zhelev's police file. The three journalists express their conviction that if the president's past is brought to light, any dark political machinations devised now or in the future will be prevented.

Students' Strike Development Reviewed

AU1704091091 Sofia BTA in English 2103 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 16 (BTA)—The students' strike in Ruse will probably end Thursday, the BTA correspondent reported after today's talks between the students

and the Minister of Higher Education Mr. Georgi Fotev. Mr. Fotev promised to meet the students' social demands. The students are on strike for the third time, after the first two strikes spread to almost all higher schools and brought down a president and a prime minister. There is no information whether the students will insist on their political demands: early parliamentary elections.

The public opinion research laboratory with the University of Sofia conducted a poll on students' and lecturers' attitude to the second sit-in strike last December. The results are representative for the students of the University of Sofia, where the strike broke out.

84 per cent of the respondents think that it is acceptable to resort to strikes only after all other means have been tried. Six per cent oppose strikes and 10 per cent believe strikes are the best of all methods. When asked if the strike had been justifiable, 38 per cent of the respondents answered yes, 24 per cent said no and 16 per cent said they didn't know.

48 per cent, i.e. almost half of the respondents, approved of the demands but disapproved of the sit-in strike. 32 per cent gave it unqualified support and just 2 per cent expressed no opinion on the sit-in strike and no interest in the problem.

Should students react by strikes to important socio-political problems? 22 per cent of the respondents said yes, 2 per cent said no, 52 per cent said yes, if the problem concerns them directly, and 20 per cent thought a token strike was enough.

Foreign Minister Dienstbier Continues U.S. Visit

Meets With Officials

LD1604112891 Prague CTK in English 0853 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Washington April 16 (CTK correspondent)—Visiting Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier and Chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Claiborne Pell discussed here yesterday the Czechoslovak industry conversion, export quotas for Czechoslovak goods to the United States and Czechoslovakia's participation in the reconstruction of Kuwait.

Czechoslovakia wants the USA to extend or abolish export quotas on textiles. This month's quotas on textiles have been exhausted. Although there is a considerable interest in Czechoslovak textiles on the American market, it is impossible to increase exports.

Dienstbier also held talks with U.S. officials on the participation of American firms in projects in Czechoslovakia and on the military industry conversion. Dienstbier said that this problem is linked with political stability in Slovakia (the smaller of Czechoslovakia's two national republics).

Dienstbier left for the United States on April 11.

Meets Secretary of State Baker

LD1604215591 Prague Domestic Service in Slovak 2000 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Czechoslovak Foreign Affairs Minister Jiri Dienstbier met in Washington today his U.S. colleague, James Baker. He stressed that it would be very advantageous if the United States participated in the conversion of our arms industry. He drew attention to the worsening social situation in Czechoslovakia and to the fact that there is a threat of economic collapse if there is no economic revival. Jiri Dienstbier further asked for help in opening world markets for Czechoslovakia. He also drew attention to the complications we face in exports to the U.S. market.

James Baker offered to help Czechoslovak produce get to Western European markets during his talks with the European Communities. At the same time, he voiced support for our effort to get involved in European structures. He asked Minister Dienstbier for practical suggestions and cooperation in economy and commerce.

Asks Baker for Arms Conversion Aid

LD1704012491 Prague CTK in English 2151 GMT 16 apr 91

[Text] Washington April 16 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier told U.S. Secretary of State James Baker today that the United States can help stabilize the situation in Central Europe.

Social peace and continued prosperity are important for the young democracies in this area, Dienstbier said. Demagogues are making use of momentary difficulties to attack the governments and are misusing social tensions for their political aims. These countries need stability and the United States can help them achieve it, Dienstbier said.

He told Baker that Czechoslovakia is threatened with an economic collapse unless an economic revival takes place. In particular the situation in Slovakia, the eastern third of the country, is very serious because arms factories are the sole source of employment for the population in some regions. Dienstbier cautioned that problems could escalate in the coming weeks. He said it would be very useful if the United States could participate in the conversion of the Czechoslovak arms industry to non-military production.

Dienstbier asked the United States to help open world markets for Czechoslovakia. We lost the GDR and Soviet markets and the situation is much more serious now than one year ago, he said. He spoke about problems faced by Czechoslovakia in exporting to the American market. Baker promised that in his talks with the European Community (EC) he would support Czechoslovak products access to West European markets.

Baker supported Czechoslovakia's efforts towards integration into the European structures. Dienstbier said that after the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact Czechoslovakia's security in Europe should be ensured within the European Conference on Security and Cooperation, the Helsinki process, cooperation with the EC and contacts with NATO.

Later today, U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle confirmed to Dienstbier his intention to visit Czechoslovakia this summer and attend an international conference in Bardejov, East Slovakia.

Dienstbier also conferred separately with the U.S. President's adviser on national security Brent Scowcroft.

Small Arms Exports to Proposed

LD1604014991 Prague CTK in English 2105 GMT 15 Apr 91

[Text] Washington April 15 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier presented in a meeting today with U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defence Donald Atwood a programme for the economic conversion of the Slovak arms industry that could include the export of firearms to the U.S.

Atwood promised the Czechoslovak minister that the U.S. would prepare a list of American companies that would be willing to invest in Slovak firms if they were privatised. Currently 65 per cent of all arms produced in Czechoslovakia are manufactured in the Slovak Republic.

In response to Atwood's statement that the U.S. is considering cooperation with Czechoslovakia in the manufacture of small arms, Dienstbier said he hoped Czechoslovakia could export sporting and hunting firearms. He added that stability in the new democracies in Central Europe is directly related to preventing social tensions and promoting economic prosperity, which in Slovakia depends above all on the conversion of the arms industry.

Meets Bush, Holds News Conference

LD1704090191 Prague CTK in English 0655 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Washington April 17 (CTK correspondent)—Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier, visiting the USA since last Thursday [11 April], met here yesterday with U.S. President George Bush and his national security adviser Brent Scowcroft.

Bush asked Dienstbier to explain to him the situation in Slovakia (the smaller of Czechoslovakia's two national republics) and promised support for the Czechoslovak endeavour to participate in the reconstruction of Kuwait.

Bush also expressed the wish to meet with Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel this autumn.

This year is decisive for Czechoslovakia, said Dienstbier at a press conference held here last night. He said that an unstable situation in Czechoslovakia could jeopardize not only this country but also the whole of Europe. This danger is not military but economic. Dienstbier said that Czechoslovakia is making every effort to strengthen the institutions of the Helsinki process in a way convenient for the Central and East European countries.

Dienstbier also spoke about the possibility of deployment of a multinational force in Europe. He said that the future mechanism of European security should function just as the U.N. Security Council did at the time of the Persian Gulf crisis.

Gal Interviewed on Meeting With FRG's Genscher

LD1204221491 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1705 GMT 12 Apr 91

[Interview with Fedor Gal, chairman of the Public Against Violence (VPN) Slovak Council, by Michal Tvarozek; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] As you know, esteemed listeners, Fedor Gal, chairman of the Public Against Violence [VPN] Slovak Council met yesterday with German Foreign Affairs Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

[Tvarozek] Mr. Chairman, could you describe to us the genesis of your meeting with Mr. Genscher?

[Gal] At the moment, I am a leading representative of the VPN movement, which is the movement standing on the political scene on similar positions as those of political representations of liberal democratic orientation in the western democracies. Mr. Genscher is a representative of such a political grouping. I was interested in meeting him as a politician meeting a politician. I was given information about the conditions for, and where the meeting would take place, from Ambassador [as heard] Steiner. It was how it happened.

I listened attentively to today's radio programs, and I think that some statements by Mr. (Sobotnik) need correcting. Neither the federal government nor the Slovak Government was the body that organized our meeting. My talks had rather an unequivocal character, unequivocal orientation—I informed Mr. Genscher about the fact that a political movement professing liberal values has been formed on the Slovak political scene, that this political movement is interested in joining political parties and movements of this orientation in the European context, and that he, as a leading world politician, could help us become part of the European context. I informed him about our support fot the stability and progress of this federation, and that given the results of parliamentary elections and our position in the parliaments and the governments, we are to a certain degree also the guarantors of preventing the destabilization of our country.

I did not say one single sentence that could damage the image of Slovakia abroad. I wonder where Mr. Sobotnik obtained information regarding talks which took place in a close circle of a few people. On the contrary, I asked Mr. Genscher to help young Slovak politicians to become professional, to show understanding for our need to bring up a new generation of managers. [passage omitted]

[Tvarozek] Mr. Knazko [as heard] in an interview carried by the radio said that your meeting was outside protocol.

[Gal] There was simply one item on Mr. Genscher's agenda—a personal meeting with VPN representatives.

[Tvarozek] Did you agree with Mr. Genscher on some specific contacts to be developed in future? You began to speak about this.

[Gal] Look, we succeeded in defining the platform on which further talks will take place. Those talks will take place in a few days. A parliamentary delegation, including Mr. Sutovec and Mr. Dubcek—leading VPN representives—will soon visit Germany. They have information about what we discussed with Mr. Genscher, and they will continue this discussion. This is a legitimate and normal way of doing things. [passage omitted]

[Tvarozek] I have to ask you one question which our listeners asked frequently when phoning us: Why was it you who represented Slovakia? This is one part of the question. The other part of the question is: Why is it namely the movement that has, say, 5 percent support in the political life in Slovakia that is represented in Prague?

[Gal] You know, unlike some other politicians, I do not say that I represent Slovakia. During talks I represented the VPN movement, and I represented it because I am the legitimate chairman of the VPN Slovak Council, which is the supreme political body of this movement. This means that I am entitled to represent it in this way. [passage omitted]

[Tvarozek] The last question, Mr. Chairman. Did you consult over your trip to Prague and your meeting with Mr. Genscher with the VPN Slovak Council?

[Gal] Of course. [laughs] It is not my habit—and generally in politics it is not a habit that a leading representative of a party or a movement simply decides to get in a car and leave for Prague to have talks with another leading politician, from Germany. It is nonsense. Of course I consulted, and I had working papers prepared by our experts who know the German political scene and Mr. Genscher. It is the way of politics.

Dienstbier's Remarks on Sudeten Germans Contested

AU1604131291

[Editorial Report] Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech on 10 April on pages 1 and 7 carries a 900-word editorial article entitled "Minister Dienstbier Does Not Know the Demands of Sudeten Germans." The article expresses "astonishment" at statements made by Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier at a news conference in Prague on 9 April concerning Sudeten German demands for the restitution of Sudeten German property nationalized in Czechoslovakia. Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech on 12 April on pages 1 and 7 carries a 750-word interview with Franz Neubauer, spokesman for the Sudeten German Landsmannschaft [SDL], on his organization's demands. The interview was conducted "by telephone" on 11 April.

The 10 April RUDE PRAVO editorial article expresses "astonishment at the ignorance of our minister of foreign affairs about the demands of Sudeten Germans vis-a-vis Czechoslovakia." According to RUDE PRAVO, Dienstbier revealed his "ignorance" by claiming at a news conference in Prague on 9 April that "the SDL does not demand any restitution of property that the Sudeten Germans used to own here." To prove Dienstbier's "ignorance," RUDE PRAVO quotes extensively from an article by Franz Neubauer, "the highest SDL representative," published in the 1 March 1991 issue of the official SDL organ SUDETEN-DEUTSCHE ZEITUNG. In this article, Neubauer formulated the following four demands:

"We call on the Czechoslovak Government to declare null and void the unlawful expulsion of Sudeten Germans and [President Edvard] Benes' expropriation decrees.

"Every German expelled from Czechoslovakia must have the opportunity to return there as a free citizen, if he so wishes.

"The CSFR should acknowledge the Sudeten Germans' right to a homeland and it should do so now and not only after joining the EC.

"The confiscation of private Sudeten German property after 1945 was unlawful. In the same way as expropriations carried out after 1948 have been annulled, property should be restored also to those whose property had been expropriated prior to this, regardless of nationality."

In his interview for 12 April RUDE PRAVO, Franz Neubauer confirms that Minister Dienstbier's statement of 9 April about the SDL not demanding any property restitution "did not correspond to the reality" and that RUDE PRAVO's restatement of the SDL's four demands was "accurate."

Neubauer reiterates that the decrees on the expulsion and expropriation of Sudeten Germans were "in contravention of international law" and that the CSFR must redress these wrongs "if it wants to return to Europe with everything this entails." At the same time Neubauer vows that "we do not want a settlement that would damage the country." He believes that, if the Sudeten Germans were allowed to return and if they received back their property, they would invest in Czechoslovakia and "significantly contribute to the building of the country."

Neubauer also mentions that the Sudeten Germans would not insist on restitution in kind but that, in case of former Sudeten German property acquired "in good faith" or "serving purposes beneficial to the public," they would settle for "other forms" of compensation. "We do not want to resettle anyone, there will not be any new evacuations," Neubauer says.

Asked whether the question of property rights should form part of the Czechoslovak-German state treaty currently under preparation, Neubauer says that, because it is impossible to resolve these complex questions in such a short time, the treaty should "leave them open." Neubauer also criticizes CSFR Prime Minister Calfa's statement that a "thick line" should be drawn "under everything" as this would amount to a confirmation of wrongdoing.

Presidential Spokesman Holds Prague News Briefing

LD1604140691 Prague CTK in English 1308 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Prague April 16 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Presidential Spokesman Michael Zantovsky confirmed today that

the Prince and Princess of Wales will pay an official visit to Czechoslovakia on May 6-9, at Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel's invitation.

At a briefing Zantovsky said Polish President Lech Walesa has an invitation from the president to visit Czechoslovakia and the visit is likely to take place this year.

Zantovsky spoke of the talks Havel had with British Prime Minister John Major, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and German Finance Minister Theo Waigel on the occasion of the opening of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in London on Monday.

Havel's talks with Major dealt with conversion of the Czechoslovak armaments industry. Part of the British know-how fund is to be earmarked for the solution of problems linked with conversion. Major said Great Britain was ready to help in Czechoslovakia's search for new markets to replace those that collapsed.

Concerning the Havel-Shamir talks, Zantovsky said Israel has not requested and Czechoslovakia has not offered any mediation in settling Middle East problems but, he added, Czechoslovakia is willing to help.

Economic cooperation, financial assistance and the movement of finances and labour force were on the agenda of talks between Havel and Waigel, Zantovsky said.

Reporting in detail about last week's 25-minute phone call between Havel and U.S. President George Bush, Zantovsky said the focus of the talk was on the social and economic situation in Czechoslovakia, the course of economic reform and its impact in Slovakia. The presidents also spoke of the need for know-how and investment in economic conversion projects and of Czechoslovakia's participation in the postwar reconstruction of Kuwait, as well as about U.S. Government subsidies to the Radio Free Europe broadcasting station. The Czechoslovak view is that these subsidies should be granted for another one or two years.

Zantovsky said that a nationwide fund-raising campaign for aid to Kurdish refugees may be launched in Czechoslovakia.

'Heated' Exchanges Occur on Slovak Reforms

LD1604165491 Prague CTK in English 1554 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Bratislava April 15 (CTK)—Citing their lack of specificity and overall vagueness, the Slovak cabinet today rejected proposals submitted by Slovak Deputy Premier Jozef Kucerak for economic reform measures in Slovakia.

At a press conference after the cabinet meeting, Slovak Deputy Premier Jan Carnogursky said that a new, more concrete proposal is to be submitted to the cabinet by May 5.

According to Carnogursky, at the end of today's discussion a heated exchange of views took place between deputy premiers Kucerak and Vladimir Ondrus on one side, and Premier Vladimir Meciar on the other. While Meciar thought the proposal was inadequate, both Kucerak and Ondrus defended it as a suitable blueprint for further steps in the Slovak economic reform.

Differences of opinion on the progress of economic reform in Slovakia—the smaller of Czechoslovakia's two constituent republics with a population of about five million—have been appearing most recently following the split of the Public Against Violence (VPN), formerly the strongest political force in Slovakia, into two factions at the beginning of March.

Centered around Meciar and calling itself VPN-For Democratic Slovakia (VPN-ZDS), the VPN breakaway faction wants the republic's reform program to reflect the fact it will be more difficult for Slovakia to make the transition to a market economy.

Meciar Defends Behavior During Trips Abroad

LD1704014991 Prague CTK in English 2139 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Bratislava April 16 (CTK)—Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar today told journalists after being questioned by the presidium of the Slovak parliament that he did not violate any laws, was guilty of nothing and could demonstrate concrete results from his trips abroad.

The purpose of today's Presidium session was to evaluate foreign visits made by Meciar as a representative of the Slovak government, investigate allegations that he tampered with former secret police files, and obtain an explanation of several public statements Meciar has made.

Frantisek Miklosko, chairperson of the Slovak parliament, said it will be necessary to evaluate the findings of today's session and uncover all the relevant facts before any final decisions can be taken. Meciar is likely to be called before the Presidium at least once more.

Today's inquiry took place at the initiative of a group of deputies from the Public Against Violence (PAV) [VPN] movement after Meciar led a group of PAV members in creating a breakaway faction called VPN-for Democratic Slovakia (VPN-ZDS), which opposes the VPN position on economic reform.

Meciar confirmed his earlier statements that he had met with Soviet generals on his trip to the Soviet Union one month ago, but he maintained that his mention of Slovak arms sales to the USSR was meant purely ironically.

He also dismissed claims that the Slovak Republic was being run by behind-the-scenes politicking among the four government coalition partners - VPN, the Christian Democratic Movement, the Democratic Party and the Hungarian Independent Initiative. Asked whether he was considering any personnel changes in the Slovak government, Meciar replied that he had suggested a reconstruction of the government to the coalition partners, as he considers some changes inevitable because of the unethical behaviour of some Slovak ministers.

Premier Vladimir Meciar said after the cabinet meeting that the reason the proposed blueprint for economic reform was rejected was that the plan was too theoretical and failed to address existing problems.

"It is impossible to endlessly repeat general matters in textbook formulations", Meciar later told journalists.

He said just describing the present situation was insufficient and instead solutions have to be sought. According to Meciar, one urgent problem is a lack of money for the health care system because its resources will not last beyond the beginning of September. Another is the growth of unemployment which will soon exceed the originally expected 100,000. Some 80,000 jobs are in jeopardy in the building industry alone, Meciar said.

MSZP 'Unequivocally Ready' for 6-Party Talks

LD1604225491 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1600 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] The Hungarian Socialist Party [MSZP] is unequivocally ready to participate in the six-party coordination talks proposed by the Federation of Young Democrats. Zoltan Gal, faction leader, has only made one condition: The agenda should be determined in advance, in which, according to the MSZP, economic crisis-handling and the matter of structural transformation must be involved. It must also be discussed how constitutional institutions could be developed and protected. The MSZP does not consider it inconceivable that experts instead of leaders should take part in the six-party talks.

Research Official on Future Economic Prospects

AU1704094791 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 12 Apr 91 p 9

[Interview with Economic Research Institute Director Andras Vertes by Ilona Kocsi; place and date not given: "Optimistic Enterprises—Uncertain Future"—first paragraph is MAGYAR HIRLAP introduction]

[Excerpts] Lesser inflation, strongly increasing unemployment, and further intensifying crisis—these are the prospects for this year in a recent survey conducted among almost 1,000 enterprises by the Economic Research Institute. Although the expectations of the enterprises and of the population are distorted by their own prospects, their opinion is a noteworthy signal to be considered by the economic leaders. We asked Andras Vertes about the conclusions that could be drawn from the aforementioned expectations.

[Kocsi] Your survey last autumn regarded the possible upsurge in inflation as the most dangerous element in our economy. It seems that you have now changed that opinion....

[Vertes] Accelerating inflation could become a galloping inflation anytime; therefore, the danger still exists. The 35-38 percent inflation planned for this year is still much higher than the 28.9 percent increase in prices last year; however, I admit that, in this respect, the world market conditions are much more favorable than previously predicted: For example, the price of crude is lower than expected. Thus, there are good chances that no upsurge in inflation would occur. Furthermore, if circumstances change, predictions will also change all over the world. There is nothing surprising in this.

[Kocsi] Your survey shows that, despite the problems, the enterprises participating in the survey are rather optimistic regarding their own future. What is the basis of this optimism?

[Vertes] I would put it more precisely: In the short term, the enterprises are optimistic, but they are very pessimistic over the long term. At the end of the January, enterprises in the area of industry, construction industry, agriculture, and domestic trade predicted a 20 percent drop in our ruble exports and a 4-5 percent loss in production. The fact that only one-sixth of the industrial enterprises have an adequate development strategy seems to contradict this, however. This shows that the aforementioned optimism is hardly justified. This picture changed a little during the second survey conducted in March. [passage omitted]

[Kocsi] Most of the enterprises in the survey expect an increase in their profits this year. This also shows a great deal of self-confidence, does it not?

[Vertes] There is nothing surprising in this. If they count on a 5 percent decrease in production and a 30-35 percent increase in production prices, they will already have a profit. This is natural in nominal values in times of inflation. Naturally, this is quite different in real values. Besides, expectations are quite different. Optimism is generally characteristic of the manufacturing industry workers, and this seems to be exaggerated.

[Kocsi] How can you explain the fact that, although the forint was already devalued at the beginning of this year, expectations of further devaluations have not ceased? At least this is what your survey shows.

[Vertes] Everyone does what his role demands and hopes for what one needs. There is still a big difference between domestic and foreign inflation, and the forint devaluation carried out in January did not fully compensate this; therefore, those who think that the forint will again be devalued this year think logically. This hope is particularly justified among exporters. One can justifiably hope that the government will encourage our exports to the West, once our exports to Eastern Europe dropped. [passage omitted]

Foreign Trade Growth Reportedly Will Slow Down

LD1604184991 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1600 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Andras Takacs report on news conference by International Economics Relations Minister Bela Kadar with unidentified reporters on 16 April; place not given]

[Text] Foreign trade balance, financial solvency, and eastern trade were the topics in today's news conference held by the minister for international economic relations. Andras Takacs summarizes what was said there:

[Takacs] The foreign trade of our country increased dynamically in the last quarter, said Bela Kadar, minister for international economic relations, at his news conference this afternoon.

Our exports—counted in dollars—exceeded the previous year's by 39 percent, while imports increased by 40 percent. The $2 billion foreign trade brought a $200 million surplus, and the financial solvency of our country was not shaken for one minute, Bela Kadar stressed.

The eastern market continues to shrink, and now only provides 12 percent of the dollar-accounted trade. The collapse of the Soviet market and the reduction in eastern trade are endangering half a million jobs in Hungary.

Otherwise, in the ruble-accounted trade carried over from last year there is a 40 million trade surplus. The foreign trade results of the first quarter, unfortunately, do not provide hope that the dynamic growth can be sustained. Because of the market changes, companies presented their convertible exports and, awaiting the devaluation of the forint, scheduled their deliveries originally planned for the end of last year for this quarter.

All this means that growth will gradually slow down in the months to come, Bela Kadar said.

Bos-Nagymaros Barrage Agreement Terminated

LD1604130191 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0847 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Speech by Environmental Committee Speaker Robert Kiss at the National Assembly Session in Budapest—Live]

[Text] Esteemed National Assembly. This draft resolution, which is in front of you—that is, under discussion—was submitted to you, or its previous form, under Number 190, on 4 July last year. It was entitled: About the Final Abandonment of the Gabcikovo-Nagymaros Water Barrage System. This was written by me and my fellow deputy Janos Pap. Later, the Environmental Committee started to write a new resolution, because several modification motions were made to the resolution. This resolution was divided into two parts: One side concerns the government's tasks in connection with the Bos-Nagymaros water barrage system, the other side concerns individual international environmental protection tasks.

This resolution has had several versions; as Mr. Speaker said, it had a few versions apart from this, too. I think that the committee has now discussed it in full with the Constitutional Committee, with the foreign affairs representatives, and with everyone who has participated here or is concerned with this resolution in any way.

The original resolution, as well as this resolution, consists of two not completely separate parts. The first part concerns the termination of the currently effective agreement signed on 16 September 1977. This is the statutory role on the ratification of the interstate agreement on the construction and putting into operation of the Bos-Nagymaros water barrage system. In addition to this, however—considering that this water barrage system has already been built, to a certian extent—in its following part it calls on the government to make a further agreement. Unlike the 1977 agreement, however, the committee, or the draft resolution, stresses three main points. The first point is that the reconstruction and preservation of the area's ecological and natural values means primarily the preservation of drinking water and drinking water reserves. The second point is the defense against flooding the third is the creation of shipping, which is to adapt to the natural circumstances of the area. It is important to emphasize this because the filling in of the channel was mentioned in connection with the problems of shipping. This is why the committee found it necessary to emphasize shipping being adapted to the natural circumstances. The National Assembly calls on the government to draw up plans on the rehabilitation of the concerned areas.

The second part is the confirmation of the previous resolution and the aim that has to be reached—that is, the aim which has to be reached first at the talks with the Czech and Slovak Republic, the suspension. The third point contains, as suggested by the Budget Committee, the immediate closure of the Bos-Nagymaros water barrgae system, large-scale state investment, and a full financial review of the completed work.

Finally, it is stated in this resolution, the government is requested to give a monthly account of its actions in connection with this closure to the environmental committee.

I believe that this draft resolution meets the ideas and programs of every party. In fact, it meets the program of the government to a great extent, too, as the government's program states that the government follows aims which reflect new global thinking, ecological views. It wishes to cooperate with the Czech and Slovak Republic in the ecological correction of our common mistake. Therefore, the committee supports this draft resolution, submitted under Number 2182. Thank you.

[Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian at 1100 GMT ON 16 April carries a report by Andras Domany from the National Assembly session, who says: "The National Assembly has adopted the resolution that asks the government to conduct negotiations on the termination of the 1977 interstate agreement on the Bos-Nagymaros water barrage system."]

Antall Returns From EBRD Talks in London

LD1604145891 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1500 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Gyorgyi B. Kiraly report]

[Text] The scheduled British Airways flight with Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall on board landed at Ferihegy Budapest airport at 1335. Antall had returned from the founding session of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD] in London. The prime minister said at the airport that at the bilateral summits, both British Prime Minister Major

and French President Mitterrand described Hungary's economic policy as successful.

Jozsef Antall also said that U.S.-Hungarian relations were not influenced whatsoever by the recall of Peter Zwack. He regards the affair as closed, and says he read with pleasure in a recent newspaper that Peter Zwack is of the same view.

He said he learned from [U.S.] Treasury Secretary Brady that we can continue to count on U.S. capital investments. Although there are no concrete agreements yet, the foundations of a new Soviet-Hungarian agreement are being sketched out. According to Jozsef Antall, it is advantageous for Hungary that the vice-president of the EBRD is Miklos Nemeth, who is not only an excellent expert but is well acquainted with the communist countries and economic life during the transition.

The prime minister, by the way, arrived home alone. The other members of the Hungarian delegation, Finance Minister Mihaly Kupa, National Bank President Gyorgy Suranyi, and Imre Tarafas, deputy president of the bank, are taking part in the experts' talks today and tomorrow.

Kupa on London Meetings, Coming Soviet Talks

LD1704092391 Budapest MTI in English 0758 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] London, April 17 (MTI)—In the wake of the talks between Prime Ministers Jozsef Antall of Hungary and Valentin Pavlov of the Soviet Union, held in London on Sunday, Hungarian Minister of Finance Mihaly Kupa agreed with Soviet Deputy Minister of Finance Vsevolod Sitnin on Tuesday [16 April], that experts of the two governments will begin coordinating proposals that serve to bridge the payments problems, MTI's correspondent was told by the minister of finance. The talks are scheduled to begin within ten days.

The conceptions include inter-company cooperation, barter deals, the acceptance of each others' currencies amidst determined frameworks, and the trade financing fund to be kept at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Discussing the meeting between Antall and US Secretary of the Treasury Nicholas Brady, Kupa said themes discussed included Hungary's membership in the Common Market, as American support is also necessary to this end.

Expanding the West, with Hungary is not merely an economic, but a cardinal political issue as well, which underlines the need for American support. Brady stressed the goodwill of his government in the matter, Kupa said, and added the secretary of the Treasury would also examine how Hungarian firms could participate in the Middle East rebuilding projects following the Gulf War.

While in London, Kupa met his Austrian and German counterparts. Ferdinand Lacina and Theo Waigel invited the Hungarian, Czechoslovak and Polish ministers of finance to the traditional, informal conference of "German-speaking ministers of finance", scheduled to be held in Dresden in July. To date, the conference was a forum for the Austrian, West German and Swiss ministers of finance.

Mayor Ends U.S. Visit, Remarks on Moscow Ties

LD1704085591 Budapest MTI in English 0807 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Washington, April 17 (MTI)—Sergey Stankevich, deputy mayor of Moscow, and I have agreed we shall try to set up direct goods exchange between the two capitals, said Gabor Demszky, mayor of Budapest, in an interview with MTI's Washington correspondent.

Demszky also reported the World Bank is considering the granting of loans for the privatization of state-owned flats in Budapest, and modernizing the Budapest mass transportation company.

The mayor of Budapest attended the conference of the National Democracy Foundation in Washington. Participants of the conference discussed the state of Central-Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union and other regions, under the motto, unfinished revolution.

Demszky also held talks on economic assistance to be provided to Budapest, with particular emphasis on environmental protection issues, in the state department, the departments of commerce, labor, in the National Security Council of the White House, and the government's information agency.

Participants to the conference of the democracy foundation agreed that closer cooperation is needed between the democratic social movements and parties of the Central-Eastern European countries, and the Washington-based foundation has offered assistance to create the organizational frameworks, Demszky said.

From Wednesday, Demszky is to hold talks in New York with the city's mayor, and representatives of economic life. From Friday, he is to continue his visit to the United States in Los Angeles.

Reportage on Foreign Minister's Visit to Ireland

WA1604200291

For reportage on the visit by Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky to Ireland, including reports on his meetings with President Mary Robinson and Foreign Affairs Minister Gerard Collins, see the Ireland section of the 15 April West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Bielecki Returns From London; Comments on Talks

LD1704002991 Warsaw TVP Television Network in Polish 2045 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki by unidentified reporter upon Bielecki's return from London at the airport on 16 April]

[Text] [Reporter] Good evening Prime Minister, the television news. In London, you used the definition that this bank was an institution that we need very much. How is that to be understood?

[Bielecki] That is because it is an institution which not only serves the development of investment in Central and Eastern European countries, but which by supporting investment in Poland and these countries brings us closer to the European Community, and that kind of thinking came through in today's talks.

[Reporter] You met Nicholas Brady today. What was the talk about?

[Bielecki] I would not like to reveal all the details, but generally we talked about cooperation within the European Bank and about the question of a reduction of the Polish debt, particularly within the context of the London Club and the approaching meeting of the Paris Club.

Right-Wing Forum-Liberal Congress Pact Possible

AU1604075991 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 12 Apr 91 p 2

['LAW' report: "A Coalition of the Right-wing Forum With the Liberals?"]

[Text] The Forum of the Democratic Right [FPD] and Liberal-Democratic Congress do not rule out the possibility of cooperation, even an alliance. At the moment, they are situated in opposing political camps.

At the unification congress in May, at which the FPD will merge with the Citizens Movement-Democratic Action [ROAD] and the Democratic Union, the FPD, which backed Tadeusz Mazowiecki in the presidential election, will propose an alliance with the "Gdansk liberals," represented by the current prime minister.

FPD Secretary Kazimierz Michal Ujazdowski told us about these plans. "The programs of both parties are very similar," he explained. "Besides, Jan Krzysztof Bielecki's liberal government has kept the Mazowiecki government's economic program largely intact." He noted, however, that there have still not been any official talks with the Congress, and cooperation with the liberals cannot mean abandoning the FPD's own identity.

Donald Tusk of the Liberal-Democratic Congress confirmed that unofficial talks with the FPD were in progress. "We are prepared to hold talks concerning a broad spectrum of cooperation, ranging from nonaggression right up to far-reaching integration," he said. "I do not, however, think integration is possible within the next few months."

According to Tusk, a lot depends on the unification congress. "Our sentiments toward the FPD do not extend to the Democratic Union. We clearly see the support of the Union, especially the FPD, for the Bielecki government. It is difficult to imagine a more pleasant opposition."

Asked whether that means that the Congress, which quit the Center Accord in March, is now heading closer toward the Union, Tusk replied: "No, we are closer to the FPD, but we still cooperate with the Center Accord in various ways. We quit the Center Accord not because there was a sort of conflict between us, but because the Center Accord turned into a homogeneous political party, whereas we do not want to give up our identity. The FPD seems closer to us because, programatically, it possesses a sharper profile than both the Center Accord and Union."

Asked about the possibility of a coalition with the Congress, ROAD Vice Chairman Ludwika Wujec said: "So far there have not been any talks inside the Union about an electoral coalition with anyone. In an open debate, many people might approve of such an alliance. The Congress is a cohesive, intelligent party. It is worth negotiating with all rational and responsible forces. But I realize many people might also object to such a link. Many people with trade union traditions would prefer a link with 'Solidarity of Labor'."

The FPD makes a merger with the Democratic Union dependent on the Union's political character and the degree of autonomy that the statute, to be adopted at the congress, will give individual organizations. "We wish to be the right wing of the centrist Union and preserve our own separateness," said Ujazdowski.

PSL's Bartoszcze on Changes Within Party

AU1604085291 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 10 Apr 91 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Roman Bartoszcze, chairman of the Peasant Party (PSL) National Executive Committee, by Ewa Czaczkowska; place and date not given: "There Is No Crisis in the PSL"]

[Excerpt] [Czaczkowska] Your statement on the need to cleanse the ranks of the Polish Peasant Party [PSL] of the "United Peasant Party communists [ZSL]" has caused great confusion in the party. There are several versions of the reasons behind the issuing of the statement in circulation. What was the real reason?

[Bartoszcze] It was prompted by what has been going on in the PSL and its governing bodies since the merger congress that took place on 5 May of last year. The statement was aimed at the people who were in the old ZSL apparatus and whose past was linked to the Polish United Workers Party [PZPR]. Just three years ago they would say that the PZPR program was also their program. It was directed at those people who have blown their last chance to win in the coming election on the basis of populist slogans and who have been mobilizing themselves to assume power once again, or play a significant role. Along the way, they began to eliminate people from the "Wilanow" Polish Peasant Party, and that is why they have to go. I could add that I should have issued this kind of statement six months ago.

[Czaczkowska] The reaction of members of the PSL governing bodies to your statement was muted, if not negative. Last week, at a joint meeting of the party's National Executive Committee and the presidiums of the Supreme Council and Deputies Club, a statement was adopted in which it was stated that "there have not been and will not be any witch-hunts in the PSL." In light of that, do you think there can be any cooperation between the parties' governing bodies?

[Bartoszcze] I have to admit that having just returned following a period of convalescence, I have not had time to acquaint myself with the statement. I did not the use term "witch-hunt" or vetting in my statement. All I wrote was that the communists and the left have to leave the PSL.

[Czaczkowska] Even if, as you wrote in the statement, the membership of the PSL was to drop to 10,000.

[Bartoszcze] Would it have been a less significant drop if I had written 110,000? I only gave a token figure to show how determined the party is on this point.

[Czaczkowska] Do rank and file members of the PSL have nothing to worry about then?

[Bartoszcze] Absolutely. After all, many members of the PSL who were in the ZSL were the victims of communist aggression after the war. I myself was a member of the ZSL. I regard the statement that I issued as a warning to party members that they are being manipulated by the former coalition apparatus. It is a signal that it is high time to bring the PSL into line with the principles adopted at the congress. The first of these is the need to return to the ideals and principles of Stanislaw Mikolajczyk's PSL during the years 1945 to 1947 and rebuild a party whose ethics are based on the social teachings of the Catholic church, and its morality, and what is taught by the primate.

[Czaczkowska] How do you see this cleansing of the ranks being carried out, and how will you know that it has been completed?

[Bartoszcze] PSL members at the local level know best about people's backgrounds and they will decide these things for themselves. I see the next congress, which should take place within a year of the parliamentary elections, marking the end of the process. The pre-congress meetings of rural circles, township and voivodship congresses, and election of delegates will be a kind "finishing point" for PSL members.

[Czaczkowska] In some PSL quarters, it is being said that you are not in fact the author of the statement.

[Bartoszcze] I produced it personally and I wrote it at home in Slawecino. I dictated it to Warsaw over the telephone and then dispatched a copy to the Sejm.

[Czaczkowska] Do you not think that the statement has caused yet another crisis in the PSL?

[Bartoszcze] I do not. A lot of fuss has been made about the statement, but I think it is a case of "guilty consciences."

[Czaczkowska] So, you are not concerned about a possible split in the PSL, which is what some members think may happen?

[Bartoszcze] There is no danger of a split. If someone does not accept this type of PSL, if he holds other beliefs, then he should simply leave, but that does not mean that there will be a split [passage omitted].

Solidarity Commission Meets, Views Union Strategy

LD1604225891 Warsaw PAP in English 2154 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Gdansk, April 16—Bogdan Borusewicz and Jan Rulewski were elected vice-chairmen of the Solidarity national commission at its meeting in Sobieszewo, outside Gdansk, today.

The commission designated Tomasz Wojcik of Wroclaw to be a Solidarity representative in the International Labour Organization.

The commission also adopted an appeal establishing the remembrance day of workers who lost life or health in result of accidents at work to be held on April 28 and called on the government to speed up work on a law on protection of men at their work posts.

Following the adoption of trade union laws by the Sejm (lower house), the commission addressed a letter to the Senate proposing changes in them and the restoration of the provisions rejected by the Sejm concerning, among other things, legal sanctions for violation of the laws.

The programme of the two-day meeting also includes a report of Solidarity leader Marian Krzaklewski on his meeting with Premier Bielecki and discussion on the union's strategy in negotiations with the government on social and economic issues. These points are to be discussed at a closed-door session to prevent a premature disclosure of the strategy which would make the negotiations more difficult for Solidarity.

On Wednesday the debates are to be continued.

Prime Minister Roman Continues Visit to U.S.

Meets U.S. Officials During Visit

AU1604083791 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0754 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 16/4/1991—Now on a private visit in the U.S.A., Premier Petre Roman had a rich programme of talks with American officials on Monday [15 April].

He granted interviews for the "U.S.A. Today" newspaper and for the World Monitor Television. After visiting the Holocaust Memorial devoted to the victims of Nazism, Premier Roman had interviews with the secretary ad interim of the treasury, John Robson, which was also attended by Mr. Tom Dawson, executive director for the U.S.A. of the International Monetary Fund, with the leader of the Republican minority in the U.S. Congress, Robert Dole, with Ambassador Carla Hill, U.S. representative for commerce, with Mrs. Gordana Earp, director for Eastern European affairs, with Mr. Richard Lesher, director of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, as well as with a group of businessmen, with Mr. Robert Masbacher, secretary of commerce, with other officials in the Department of Commerce, with members of the House of Representatives in the U.S. Congress.

Premier Petre Roman also met with representatives of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development at its headquarters and with representatives of the Organization of American States.

The talks approached mainly the latest political and economic developments in Romania, the stage and prospects of the reform, the ways chosen by the Romanian Government for the fastest transition to the market economy, the prospects of the political and commercial relations between the United States and Romania. On Tuesday [16 April] Mr. Petre Roman will have interviews at the U.S. Congress with deputies and senators as well as a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Meets Secretary of State Baker

AU1704105391 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0841 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Washington, ROMPRES, 17/4/1991—On the third day of his private visit to the United States, Premier Petre Roman had an almost one hour interview with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. "It was an opportunity to stress the real efforts we make towards the market economy. In another string of ideas I have reiterated that one of the Romanians' strongest wishes throughout the communist regime was the American presence in Romania. Basically, the Romanians have always linked democracy to the American society and this is a very important aspect which made us, Romania's Government, establish better, the best, if possible, relations with the United States. The goal of the interview with the secretary of state was to assure him of our strong attachment to the fundamental values of democracy and the programme of transformation of the economy, of reorienting it towards a free market economy, to basic human rights, to the fundamental liberties a democracy must imply, them and their exercise. I also wanted to assure the secretary of state that our position during the Gulf crisis was not accidental. It was a stand which, we hope, was well defined and inspired by our confidence in the same values the American society also praises. I must confess that the interview with the secretary of state is very important for me since, as you know, before the revolution I was not a politician and now I had the opportunity to meet one of the most important politicians of the world. I have met a man with an extraordinary capability of understanding, of putting things back where they should be. Therefore, I express my deepest thanks to Secretary of State James Baker."

In his turn, Mr. James Baker said that he encouraged the Romanian government in its efforts to implement the reform and politic pluralism as well as to build a market economy.

Admitting that they were not easy James Baker expressed the Unites States' hope to see those efforts follow the same direction. He thanked the prime minister for the way in which Romania worked within the U.N. Security Council to confront, alongside the United State, Iraq's brutal aggression against Kuwait.

The last day of the visit to Washington also included interviews with congressmen like Deputy Steny Hoyer and Senator Dennis DeConcini, members of the European Security and Cooperation Commission, Deputy Dante Fascell, chairman of the External Relations Committee of the House of Representatives, Senator Joseph Lieberman, Senator Claiborne Pell, chairman of the Senate's External Relations Committee. In the morning the Romanian Premier Visited the Memorial to the U.S. Servicemen who died in Vietnam. Also on Tuesday [16 April] the Romanian premier held a press conference and gave several interviews.

Most Favored Nation Status Discussed

AU1704090491 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0808 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 17/4/1991—"The transformations are for the good, but they could also be accompanied by some pain" Romania's Prime Minister Petre Roman, now in the United States, said in an interview with REUTERS in reference to the underway processes in Romania in its transition to a market economy. Romania's economic growing pains are likely to continue for four years, but at that time living standards could be comparable to the rest of Europe, he said.

On the most favoured nation status (MFNS) which Romania wants to restore, the Romanian prime minister said MFNS was not the key to Romanian development, especially after the International Monetary Fund's approval last week of a 748 million dollar financing package for Romania for the next twelve months. But MFNS would mean an American presence in the Romanian economy, which he said was crucial to his country's development.

Newspaper Report on Roman's U.S. Visit Denied

AU1604154891 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1416 GMT 16 Apr 91

["Diplomatic Agenda: Foreign Affairs Ministry Communique"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 16/4/1991—In its April 13-14 issue, "ADEVARUL" daily carried a news item headlined "Prime Minister Roman's Visit to the U.S.A.," allegedly quoting the State Department spokesman's comments on this visit. "The Romanian Government has long looked forward to a summit visit to Washington, but the U.S. Administration did not consider opportune to invite officially any of the front-ranking members of the present regime," read the "ADEVARUL" quote.

Trying to confirm the veridicity of the information, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has learnt that the State Department spokesman has not made any declaration to this effect. The only reference to Romania was made on April 8, 1991, in response to a journalist's question, namely:

Question: Is the United States against giving Romania assistance or international credits?

Answer: The United States is not against giving Romania assistance or international credits. The United States is concerned however over certain developments in Romania, such as those in the fields of democratization, human rights, independence of the mass media and treatment of individuals belonging to minority groups.

So at this moment we are not giving financial assistance to the Romanian Government, but nor do we object to others doing so.

The United States declares for a fast-paced reform toward the market economy in Romania, and hails the agreement reached between Romania and the International Monetary Fund regarding the economic reform programme.

The aid granted by the United States to Romania consists in technical assistance for democratic bodies and institutions, human rights protection and the primacy of law, independence of the media and economic reform in keeping with market principles, as well as humanitarian aid consisting of food and assistance for Romanian children.

U.S. Grants Emergency Energy Assistance

AU1604140091 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1055 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 16/4/1991—Romania will be given multilateral assistance by the United States Agency for International Development as part of an emergency energy programme coordinated by the Ministry of Resources and Industry.

A first aim of the programme, Engineer Cornel Florea, ministerial adviser said, is to replace energy-inefficient processes in eight industrial units.

Another aim is to raise the petroleum refining yield. U.S. aid will provide technical assistance, equipment and training to the Brazi Refinery one of the country's largest. A petroleum refining model will be developed on the computer for the best operation of the equipment and for most efficient decision-making on investment. Furthermore, the U.S. side will help improve the training of the petrol export-import company which is a petroleum buying and marketing agent.

A last aim is the development of strategies for the energy price reform in the transition to a market economy. For that end, computer models will be developed to assess the economic and social impact of different price policy options.

The U.S. team has already started "diagnosis" work in units chosen by the Ministry of Resources and Industry and has until June to come up with solutions to cut on energy requirements. A computer is already in working condition at the Ministry of Resources and Industry, and training of the personnel of the units under scrutiny will start in may.

The U.S. team, assisted by experts of the Romanian Energy Conservation Agency, will complete the project by September 1991.

Shipping Agreement Signed With Germany

AU1704103391 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0948 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 17/4/1991—Romania and Germany have signed an agreement on shipping on inland waters stipulating that ships under Romanian pavilion will benefit by the same treatment in the German territory as the German ships. The agreement also stipulates the principle of striking a balance of goods transported by ships sailing under the two pavilions and granting mutual technical, juridical and medical assistance.

"I consider this agreement to be highly important", said Traian Basescu, head of the water-borne transportation department, "as it falls in line with our department's policy of creating the legal means for using the Black Sea-Danube-Main-Rhine Canal. This accord is moreover the first one to be concluded with a West-European

country, paving the way for similar agreements with France, the Netherlands and Belgium.

"This accord and the following ones are sure to facilitate industrial investment in the future free zone of Constanta-Sud Port and the Canal area."

Baltazar on Roman's Visit, Civic Alliance Goals

AU1604202391 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1919 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 16/4/1991—Secretary of State Bogdan Baltazar, government spokesman said that the central moment of the unofficial visit Prime Minister Petre Roman was paying in the United States was going to be, "according to both the Romanian party and the U.S. one the call on Secretary of State James Baker. [sentence as received] The two high officials will examine, first of all, the possibilities of exchanges to be boosted between the two states, the phases of Romania's being granted the status of the most favoured nation in bilateral relations and other ways of stimulating trade between the two countries. The visit will be particularly important in what was called the building up of modules for Romanian-U.S. relations that can be of use now but especially in future, a strong basis of confidence and fully normal relations between the two countries.

Government Spokesman Bogdan Baltazar approached in his weekly news briefing a string of aspects of the program of the Civic Alliance—reform and truth—which demands at Point 6 the abrogation of all laws and decrees passed after March 6, 1945.

Baltazar highlighted that work goes on on the correlated abrogation of all acts and laws that are obsolete or may check development toward a market economy.

The accusations of corruption leveled at the government in the Parliament are completely groundless, Baltazar added. Corruption or traffic of influence are out of question as far as the government members are concerned and none of them even holds shares with any company.

The government considers as legitimate any political alliance, as every political party is sovereign and has a right to make alliances in order to promote its political purposes.

In connection with the government reshuffle, the spokesman could not offer any comments before Prime Minister Petre Roman's return to the country, but he considered the FSN [National Salvation Front] communique in that connection as an invitation to the political forces that could make a wholesome contribution to governing.

The ideas in the appeal of the Antitotalitarian Democratic Forum, the spokesman said, prove lack of political inspiration with those who worded it. Although it stated itself open to any suggestions or valid objections, the government has so far not received anything of the kind with reference to the reform, except for the "Cojocaru variant," already circulated in all formerly socialist countries and already dropped by them all. There is talk of the immediate privatization of the big industry, which is impossible. Take Great Britain for instance, which took ten years to privatize a few sectors of that industry. The reform program in Romania was discussed with the IMF experts, and the Board of Governors of the IMF granted the loan to Romania based on that program.

Through the agency of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Baltazar said, the government tries to conclude agreements with other countries to settle a guarantee the status of the Romanian citizens who want to work abroad.

The 16 million lei aid—the figure is rough and Baltazar did not correct it—given by Romania to the Kurds in Iraq consists of military supplies. It comes from the state budget and was given through the Ministry of National Defence with the prime minister's approval.

Senate President Criticizes Government Reform

AU1604133091 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1043 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Report on interview with Senate President Alexandru Barladeanu by unidentified ADEVARUL reporter on 16 April; place not given]

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 16/4/1991—The president of the Senate [Alexandru Barladeanu] continues to criticize the government for the way in which it applies the economic reform, and to reject the accusations brought to him after the statement he made on March 29 when he demanded the formation of a national unity government under the leadership of a National Salvation Front [FSN] personality and with the participation of parliamentary opposition representatives.

In an interview with "ADEVARUL" which also publishes in its 16 April issue an interview with the Executive Chairman of the National Salvation Front, the Senate speaker shows that through the statement he made whereby he criticized, among other things, the statute adopted by the recent FSN National Convention as a document which would open the gate to dictatorship, he did not want to distinguish himself, on the contrary he put himself at stake.

I have done as a physician who invented a medicine and tests it on his own body, Mr. Barladeanu says among other things. I have considered that the statute is nondemocratic and that is why I have criticized it and as a proof of the medicine's immediate action, I have been excluded from the party at once, which has shown that what I have stated is right.

Rejecting the accusation that he had brought a party question to Senate's debate, the president of the Parliament's upper chamber holds the Front's leadership responsible for it, reproaching it to have worked "behind doors".

In January, the government asked the prime minister in his capacity as FSN leader to call on that formation's parliamentarians to no longer show confidence in the two chambers' speakers. Therefore they were the first to have mixed up party questions with government ones.

Mr. Barladeanu also rejects as mere, groundless accusation the reproach of being against the reform or of trying to put a brake on it.

I am for the reform but not as a cavalry charge, a method which deals a heavy blow to the social body. I am for a reform which requires the least possible human sacrifices.

Defending his viewpoint according to which the government ignores the production apparatus, the only one it had, Mr. Barladeanu thinks it is the duty of the executive to provide opportunities for work. It is impossible for this country to be unable to support itself. If it cannot, it is not its fault but the rulers'. Forms to motivate work must be found.

Making the government responsible for having deliberately lose control over the economic situation, Mr. Barladeanu is not for its change but for its correction.

On the other hand, the Senate president excludes the possibility for Romania to return to communism or to have a military dictatorship.

FSN President Defends Government Reform

AU1604133191 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1049 GMT 16 apr 91

[Report on interview with FSN President Ion Stoica by unidentified ADEVARUL reporter on 16 April; place not given]

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 16/4/1991—The Executive President of the National Salvation Front [FSN] states that that political formation has not excluded anyone.

From public statements—Mr. Ion Aurel Stoica said in an interview printed in the "ADEVARUL" daily on 16 April in parallel with a talk with Mr. Barladeanu—we have found out that they (the thirteen dissident parliamentarians in the National Salvation Front together with the president of the Senate) do no longer belong to the Front, because it is quite clear that you cannot belong to a political structure the statute and programme of which you do not recognise. We have taken only one decision: we shall propose to withdraw for good the party's support for their activity as parliamentarians. They will remain parliamentarians but they will have nothing in common with our parliamentary groups.

In Mr. Stoica's opinion, the main threat is not neocommunism but the new corruption and the demagogues' neobarbarism which he considers as "a continuation of the past practices on the background of real difficulties to satisfy people's needs."

Without naming them, but hinting at the National Salvation Front dissidents, Mr. Stoica appreciates that in the reform process "we are confronting with conceptions that action as a brake. Various people who raise obstacles, various demagogues have appeared who take the propaganda for economic analysis. There is the threat that some people not affected by the social costs of the reform become solid with such conceptions. But the fastest the transition the smaller the costs of the reform."

It is tonic, Mr. Stoica further said referring to the opinion poll results, that eighty-two per cent of the population agree with the idea of the reform. So, certain demagogues' populism appears as an attempt at the Romanians' will, he concluded.

Mr. Stoica admits that, for a short period, the demagogy of the extremist left could win the electorate, but he considers it as impossible for a long period.

On the other hand, the National Salvation Front leader considers that if his formation could be blamed of something then it would be that it has not yet succeeded in relaunching the economy but he voices his hope that "the positive stagnation" will appear in near future.

Opining that early elections are not justified because the Parliament and the government have carried out a good activity in certain domains, Mr. Stoica appreciates that a government in a short electoral period is an "inhibited" one which delays the materialization of intentions.

TU Warns About Deterioration of Social Situation

AU1704095191 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0911 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 17/4/1991—We firmly ask state powers, the political parties to cease their sterile quarrel, reads a note of the "Fratia" Independent Free Trade Unions Confederation which warns over the fast deterioration of the social situation of its members which can lead to explosive actions, with unforeseeable political consequences.

We no longer want political shows like the one which, for a moment, endangered the one billion dollar loan awaited on April 5 from the International Monetary Fund and which means many jobs especially in the heavy and power industries.

We do not want to interfere in the policy of any party or groups of parties but we ask that the trade unions be acknowledged equal social partners in deeds and not in words and more particularly we demand social protection, the note reads inter alia.

Blandiana Queried on Future of Writers, Literature

AU1604095591 Bucharest DREPTATEA in Romanian 11 Apr 91 pp 1,2

["Part four" of interview with Ana Blandiana, poet and prominent figure of the Civic Alliance, by Dora Mezdrea; place and date not given: "We Are With the Current of History"]

[Excerpt] [Mezdrea] Do you believe that writers could again reach a stage when they write odes to the leadership?

[Blandiana] I do not read the official press consistently, but as far as I know, such "works" have already emerged.

[Mezdrea] This means that I am lagging behind a bit with information! As far as writers and their work are concerned, given the general surge of interest in political subjects, almost all writers prefer journalism. Do you believe that they still have time to write books, too?

[Blandiana] Could I answer for myself? You have caught me at the right moment. I am very proud of my willpower in having been able to go away from Bucharest for several weeks to prepare a new book for publication. All these years, from a psychological point of view I have survived by writing a book, something, that in the modern sense of the word is a novel but for me it has a deeper meaning, that of a poem. Thus, this is a book of prose that I wrote without ever thinking of publishing it. I never thought I would live longer than Ceausescu. That is why I wrote it without thinking of ever publishing it and this gave me not only great freedom in writing but also a kind of feeling of eternity. This was the book that was going to speak about everything. In December 1989 it was virtually finished—although had the situation continued for another 10 years, I would probably have continued to write the book. I closed my notebooks on 18 December, when I heard about Timisoara, when I entered a sort of whirlwind, from which I have not succeeded in extricating myself, not even to read this text of several hundred pages. I was telling you that I am proud of myself because I made the effort to tear myself away from Bucharest for several weeks, to read this book and to prepare it for publication; and now, after rereading it, I realized to what an extent literature still succeeds in telling more than journalism. We currently have a press that seems to me extraordinary and among the journalists there are certainly many who work on journalism, who make very intelligent analyses, but—mainly in such a troubled and complex reality—there are always a great many areas that only literature can penetrate and I am convinced that very many books will be written about the years that have passed and about the current times, and many years from now writers will be busy finding intense and profound causes that have made us be and become the way we are now. We will not lack raw material in this respect.

[Mezdrea] The literature up to 1989 resorted to all kind of strategies—overdone metaphors, various narrative tactics and others—to trick the censors. How do you think the literature that is going to be written from now on will look?

[Blandiana] I think that literature will become much more direct, but what has been gained through this long practice—let us say in the metaphorical area—and what has outstanding esthetic results, will be used to investigate reality, which is becoming increasingly complex. I want to say that giving up the complicated form will not make the literature that will be written more simple. It will be very complex because it will have to examine a very complex reality. As a matter of fact, I have the impression that very many words will be dropped. We are currently witnessing not only a financial inflation but also an inflation of words. Actually, the only raw material that one can still find plenty of in Romania at the moment is words.

[Mezdrea] People have not only made use of this raw material; they have also abused it by mocking it.

[Blandiana] The great problem of writers will be how to use the same language and the same words but make them sound different. Words were degraded not only before through the wooden language used, but also now, given the fact that the leadership is repeating and mimicking the words—that express the great truth—of the opposition, to detract from them and take away their true meaning, making them sound ridiculous. This is the most cruel thing in my view. The opposition is asking for something (for example the truth about the revolution, about terrorists, and others) and the head of the country and of the government asks for the same thing with the greatest aplomb. In this way everything becomes ridiculous and everything loses its importance. If you repeat a word endlessly it loses its significance. This lesson was learned as early as the years of dictatorship and is still being applied with great success today, too. [passage omitted]

Economic Chamber President on 'Speculations'

AU1604145491 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 6 Apr 91 p 8

["Excerpts" from an interview with Dagmar Suster, president of the Economic Chamber, by the staff of Ljubljana biweekly NASI RAZGLEDI; place and date not given: "The Last Act of the Tragedy of the Economy"]

[Excerpt] [NASI RAZGLEDI] The so-called southern part of the country has received you very well although you are a Slovene. Because everything is politicized in Yugoslavia and everybody sees something behind every action, it can be "learned" that what is involved there are some secret agreements. Namely, some controversial divisions made behind the scenes are being associated with the stands of the Economic Chamber of Yugoslavia [PKJ] and its president. It can be read in some Slovene papers that PKJ President Dagmar Suster played the same tune as [SFRY Presidency President] Jovic at the federal presidency session mid-February, but the impressions expressed by Belgrade POLITIKA were exactly the opposite. What is your opinion?

[Suster] I think that the work I have done so far (100 days in the post of the PKJ president) has been devoted to the economy in all parts of the country. If something happens and it is no longer so, I will immediately step down from my post.

I will not go into speculations that are primarily fed on envy. We Slovenes find it hard to admit to somebody that he is a successful professional.

As a PKJ official, I am not interested to know which of my or our views (stands) are in accordance with somebody's taste. (As the aforementioned session is concerned, the people in the know would tell you that it is not known who, Jovic or Markovic, was more satisfied with my speech.)

[NASI RAZGLEDI] There is something of a paradox here. On 21 March, POLITIKA said that in the opinion of all businessmen in the entire country, the federal government lacks consensus. Regarding this, would the PKJ, despite all circumstances, take into consideration a new "economic" government with Dagmar Suster as the most serious candidate for its president. Is there anything there?

[Suster] I am not going to tell you much about that. I have simply refused to give an answer about this to some 50 Yugoslav and foreign journalists. I can only say now that the PKJ authorities have made no decisions about it. This will perhaps be touched upon at the PKJ Executive Council session planned for 9 April. According to its own opinion and to the opinion of the IMF, the present government really lacks a consensus. Without a consensus, this government, just like any other government, lacks power. In the present situation, this consensus is verging on the unbelievable.

[NASI RAZGLEDI] Regardless of all that, or, in fact, regarding all that, what do you think Yugoslavia's economic destiny is?

[Suster] So much has been said and written about this that one should not say much more. The situation is known, and it is so bad that I lack the words to describe it.

I am convinced that the last act of the tragedy of the economy in all parts of Yugoslavia has begun. The play will end in several months despite the fact that some people will use all means, even printing money, to postpone that end until this autumn. The epilogue will be horrible. It will turn us back several decades in every aspect—above all civilizational—and will do so in such proportions that the problem will be difficult to solve in a peaceful and democratic way. It seems that many people who have power are either not aware of this or are incapable of finding a solution. It is obvious, however, that the people who perhaps know how to find the solution lack sufficient influence. [passage omitted]

Government Views Army's Recent Actions

LD1604213191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1936 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Belgrade, April 16 (TANJUG)—In a report on the constitutional-legislative and political relations in the country, the Yugoslav government assessed that the Yugoslav Army had so far been engaged only in separating the confronted sides with an aim of preventing bloodshed.

This concerns the Army intervention in the province of Kosovo-Metohija (Republic of Serbia), those in Pakrac and Plitvice (Republic of Croatia) as well as that in Belgrade on March 9, following clashes between demonstrators and police.

The law on total national defence and the law on army conscription should also be urgently amended, as proposed by the federal government, says the report.

The functioning of the defence system is seriously threatened and urgent legislative changes should secure "efficient exercising of constitutional functions of the federation in the area of defence," says the report.

Conscription in the Republic of Slovenia has been completely thwarted and the Republic of Croatia is cutting down the number of conscripts, says the report.

Besides, constitutional and legal prerequisites and being created for forming republican armed forces in Slovenia and Croatia, while some conscripts in Croatia are being sent to seve their army terms in police reserve forces.

The federal government maintains that, after amending the mentioned laws, the consititutional concept of the defence system should be adjusted to the "multi-party system in Yugoslavia."

Croatian Assembly Adopts Conclusions, Declaration

LD1704085791 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0811 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Zagreb, 17 Apr (TANJUG)—The second day of the Croatian Assembly session opened this morning with the adoption of conclusions on the political situation in Croatia and of the declaration to deny the Serbian Assemby the right to interfere in the internal affairs of the Republic of Croatia.

The conclusions reiterate full support for the president of the Republic of Croatia and the republic's government and call for intensive efforts to safeguard the legal system on the entire territory of the republic. One of the 12 points of the conclusions calls for activities to speed up the process for the dissolution of present SFRY.

In its declaration the assembly rejects in full the Serbian Assembly's declaration on the need for a peaceful resolution of the Yugoslav crisis and against civil war and violence.

The Croatian Assembly continues its work today with a debate on a package of laws that would mark the start of the denationalization of the republic's economy.

Croatian Minister Accepts Serbs Demands

LD1604135591 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1057 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Vukovar, 16 Apr (TANJUG)—After last night's three-hour talks in Vukovar with Croatian Internal Affairs Minister Josip Boljkovac and Slavko Degoricija, deputy minister of internal affairs consideration was given to the demands of nine villages in the municipality of Vukovar in which the population is predominantly Serbian. It is expected that the response to the demands will contribute to the calming of interethnic tensions. These tensions led at the end of March to a flight of the population to villages in Vojvodina, and later to the erection of barricades, the use of arms, absence of people from work, and other events. Of the eight demands, six were accepted. They include the demand that the national composition of the police station in Vukovar be harmonized with the national composition of the population in the municipality, that an assembly commission be formed to monitor and consider questions of the position of the Serbian nation in Croatia, and that no criminal or other measures will be applied against those who took part in the recent events or manned barricades. [passage omitted]

New Non-Party Association Founded in Zagreb

AU1604184591 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 1 Apr 91 p 6

[S. Modric report: "Glasnost for Croatian Intellectuals"]

[Excerpt] Zagreb—A Democratic Opposition Forum (DOF) [demokratski opozicioni forum] was funded in the presence of about 300 Zagreb intellectuals in Zagreb on Saturday as a particular form of non-party association that will in the future advocate the development of democracy as the only legitimate higher interest through discussion, appeals, and even political pressure.

DOF members believe that because of the democratic elections in Croatia, the authorities' control over the economy, media, judiciary, education, and public life has been institutionalized in Croatia, and such a development of affairs can only turn Croatia back into a totalitarian society. It was stated that no real opposition exists in Croatia and that mechanisms for the democratic control of power have not been set up.

The founding meeting of the DOF was led by Srdjan Dvornik, Dubravko Skiljan, Ivan Magdalenic, and Petar Turcinovic, and attended by Dr. Branko Horvat, Dr. Nikola Viskovic, Dr. Gajo Petrovic, Dr. Milorad Pupovac, and other eminent intellectuals. [passage omitted]

Serbian Government Accepts Strikers' Demands

LD1604202191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1950 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Belgrade, 16 Apr (TANJUG)—A day-long protest meeting of workers from metal-processing, textile, and leather-processing industries of Serbia ended this evening at the Trade Union Club in Belgrade. The meeting ended following assurances that the workers' demands and the agreement reached with the government this evening will be put on the agenda of the Serbian Assembly's regular session tomorrow.

Following its negotiations the trade union representatives, the republic's government accepted all the demands made during today's protest, but the workers still insist on guarantees from the republic's assembly.

Under the agreement, minimum wages for January and February will be paid by the end of April.

The government has also promised to annul tax regulations from last December and to adopt a new social welfare system by the end of April.

Kosovo Workers Support Strikers

LD1604152691 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1404 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Pristian, April 16 (TANJUG)—Textile and metal workers in the Yugoslav province of Kosovo-Metohija have supported the strike of some 700,000 of their fellow-workers in other parts of the republic of Serbia, which began on [word indistict] but continued work.

At the recommendation of the board of the independent trade unions of Serbia for Kosovo-Metohija, workers in these branches of economy held half-hour protest rallies

in the early hours this morning in support of the general strike. They demanded that those who are employed in non-economic branches receive guaranteed minimum wages until the economic and financial situation in Serbia has been consolidated.

The recommendation was made due to the grave economic situation in the province of Kosovo-Metohija.

Serbian Workers End Strike

LD1704135691 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1317 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Belgrade, 17 Apr (TANJUG)—A strike by workers in the metal-processing, textile, and leather-processing industries of Serbia has ended. At a news conference today in the headquarters of the Serbian Trade Union, the striking committee called on the workers to end the strike and return to work.

Guarantees provided by the Serbian government yesterday and today's debate in the Serbian Assembly have strengthened our belief that all our demands will be met within the agreed-upon deadlines, the striking committee says in its appeal to the striking workers.

Vojvodina Strike Involves 150,000 Workers

LD1604124991 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1126 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Novi Sad, 16 Apr (TANJUG)—A Vojvodina trade union official has told TANJUG that some 150,000 employees in the metal, textile, and leather industries in Vojvodina are on strike today. In some factories where production has not been halted, workers are wearing blue ribbons as a mark of solidarity with the strikers' demands.

Milosevic Will Meet Foreign Diplomats More Often

AU1604192591 Belgrade NEDELJNA BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 30-31 Mar 91 p 1

[Excerpts] The guests at the residence of Taizo Nakamura, Japanese ambassador in Belgrade—which is at 6 Simic Street in Senjak diplomatic quarter—were pleasantly surprised on 20 March when Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic appeared among them.

Milosevic was invited to be a guest of honor at the luncheon that the recently arrived Mr. Nakamura organized for half a dozen of his colleagues. Of course, it was known that the Serbian president rarely attends such occasions, but nevertheless ... .

Although it has not been officially announced, information has "leaked" to the public claiming that the first time Slobodan Milosevic responded to such an invitation was two months ago when he dined with the ambassadors of 12 EEC countries in Belgrade. It appears that the content of the talks was less important for the ambassadors than the actual fact that he was present. In an open discussion Milosevic, who was accompanied by former Serbian Foreign Minister Aleksandar Prlja insisted on Yugoslavia as a modern federation and on the view that Serbs cannot live in separate states. He took a very positive attitude toward Slovenia's separation, but avoided a direct answer to, what was at the time, very topical matter of Serbia's "breaking into" the federal treasury. [passage omitted]

What particularly pleased ambassadors was Milosevic's promise that in the future he would meet them and other chiefs of foreign diplomatic missions accredited to Belgrade more often. Milosevic assessed that the earlier lack of such meetings in the past had proven to be unproductive.

Whether the luncheon in Senjak definitely represents an opening of the Serbian political leadership and of President Milosevic toward the more integrated and influential international community, however, remains to be seen.

Serbian Foreign Policy Analyzed in Assembly

AU1604160291 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 29 Mar 91 p 2

[U. A. report: "President Milosevic in Greece Soon"]

[Text] The Serbian Assembly's Committee for Foreign Relations discussed several matters at its session, which was also attended by Foreign Minister Branko Mikasinovic. The first issue was the need for the Assembly to pay more attention to the most important neighboring countries, especially those bordering on Serbia. It was stressed that talks should be held with the Executive Commission of the EEC in Brussels, the European Parliament in Strasbourg, and the Council of Europe. It was concluded that, to date Serbia has not been active enough, which was not the case with some other republics. It was also stated that insufficient activity on the part of our diplomatic missions, as well as inadequate cooperation between the government and the Assembly and federal institutions are partially to blame for lack of knowledge about Serbia.

At its next session, which is scheduled for 10 April, the Committee will discuss Serbia's participation in strengthening relations with Greece, Albania, and Bulgaria. All this will be discussed in view of the scheduled visit by Republican President Slobodan Milosevic to Greece. Apart from talks at the highest level, the president will also visit Corfu, Salonika, and Hilandar.

A more detailed report on the European Parliament and the Council of Europe will also be presented in connection with an unofficial visit by National Assembly representatives who will be visiting Strasbourg together with Dr. Aleksandar Prlja, president of the Committee for Foreign Relations. Dr. Dragoljub Micunovic, leader of the Democratic party, will be visiting Strasbourg at the same time. Aleksandar Prlja and Dragoljub Micunovic will meet prominent deputies and key personalities of the Council of Europe, such as Catherine Lalumiere, and give a lecture entitled Democracy and the New Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, at Strasbourg University.

Speculations on Slovene Independence Act

AU1704093491 Ljubljana DELO in Slovene 3 Apr 91 p 1

[Vojko Flegar report: "What Will the Act on the Independent State Contain"]

[Text] Ljubljana, 2 April—The working meeting of the most influential Slovene politicians, that is, of their so-called collegium of the members of the presidency, government, and the assembly, which took place today, was devoted to debate on independence. The discussion was probably more specific this time, as Peterle's government was given (only) two weeks to prepare the independence strategy.

The proclamation of the independent Slovene state? When, how and where? Considering what we have heard from Milan Kucan, Lojze Peterle, Dr. Franc Bucar, and others, in the months after the plebiscite, and considering all adopted constitutional amendments and laws, we can assume that the act of the proclamation of Slovenia's independence (declaration, resolution?) will primarily contain the following (in "simple" words):

—the termination or seizure of authority to all federal services on the Slovene territory (customs, inspection, flight control, the Social Accounting, military court, and prosecutor's office ...);

—the appointment of the issuing bank and currency by adopting the relevant law;

—demand that the Yugoslav People's Army withdraw from Slovene territory within a mutually agreed period, and that Slovene draftees be released earlier;

—termination of the term of office to all Slovene representatives to the federal services and appointment of "charge d'affaires" in other republics;

—request for the international recognition of Slovenia;

—guarantee to the international community that a proportionate part of the foreign obligations of the present Yugoslav state will be taken over;

—recognition of all international conventions that have already been ratified by the federation, declaration on respecting the inviolability of borders, the Helsinki Final Act and the UN charter, and a request to be admitted into international organizations, starting with the United Nations.

Army Leaves Slovene Defense Premises 'Demolished'

AU1604150891 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 1330 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] The Republican Secretariat for Information reports that the members of the military police yesterday left the skyscraper on 4 Prezih street in Ljubljana, which they had occupied since last October.

The aforementioned secretariat stresses that the happy news has been spoiled by the fact that the premises in which the republican headquarters for territorial defense worked before the occupation, have been literally robbed and demolished. The Army members have taken away all of the office's inventory, furniture, and technical equipment. They even destroyed carpets and wall paper, curtains, and telephone and electricity wiring.

The Republican Secretariat for National Defense of Slovenia firmly protests this uncivilized act. At the same time, it has already sent a demand to Federal Secretary for National Defense Veljko Kadijevic that the seized property, which belongs to the Republic of Slovenia, be returned.

If the inventory and technical equipment are not returned by 22 April, the relevant Slovene authorities will initiate a criminal procedure against the persons responsible, the Republican Secretariat for Information stated.

Teachers Strike in Slovenia Secondary Schools

LD1604111891 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1015 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Summary] Ljubljana, 16 Apr (TANJUG)—Teachers in 65 secondary schools, in other words in every second secondary school in Slovenia, today began a two-day strike which may yet become a full week's strike starting next Monday [22 April]. The main reason for the strike is the government's failure to abide by a long-standing agreement that teachers be paid 38 percent more than average pay in the republic.

SDA Condemns Community of Serbian Municipalities

LD1604125191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0947 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Mostar, 16 Apr (TANJUG)—The planned formation of the community of municipalities of eastern or old Hercegovina, where a majority of the population are Serbs, is part of a greater Serbian scenario to carve up Bosnia-Hercegovina and reorganize Yugoslavia in the interests of only one nation. This is directly aimed against the interests of the Muslim nation. The Party of Democratic Action [Stranka Demokratske Akcije—SDA] and the Muslim nation will resolutely oppose this.

This was emphasized at an SDA news conference held in Mostar last night concerning the formation of the above-mentioned community of municipalities announced for 18 April. [passage omitted]

Jerko Doko, Bosnia-Hercegovina minister of national defense, announced that he would propose to the government and Assembly of Bosnia-Hercegovina that recruits from Bosnia-Hercegovina be no longer sent to the Yugoslav People's Army, [JNA] but rather be used to strengthen its own national defense. It is not good that one nation throws flowers at tanks, while the other nations flee to the forest in fear, Doko said.

The question was also raised as to why armored JNA units have been transferred from Kikinda to Mostar, and why the JNA head quarters is completely ignoring the legal entities of authority in Bosnia-Hercegovina by not informing them about actions in the territory of this republic.

Disqualifications and abusive language were nervously expressed at the expense of the whole Serbian nation at the news conference, which was attended by a large number of SDA activists as well as officials.

Bosnian 'Ethnic Principle' Questioned

LD1604222491 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1956 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Sarajevo, April 16 (TANJUG)—The Alliance of Socialist Youth-Democratic Alliance (ASY-DA), a political party in the Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, assessed here today that Bosnia-Hercegovina had been brought into question as a republic because the ethnic principle was treated as a basis of the political system.

Three ethnic parties are in power in the republic—the Serbian Democratic Party, the Party of Democratic Action which is practically a party of Moslems, and the Croatian Democratic Union.

The ASY-DA accused the three ethnic ruling parties of "forcibly" implementing such a model and of "forcibly implementing a new regionalization in the republic" on the ethnic principle, which thus seriously threatened the further existence of the ruling coalition.

The Socialist Democratic Party of Bosnia-Hercegovina (SDP) today criticized the republican and state organs—the presidency, parliament and government—for not reacting to the special meetings between Milosevic and Tudjman, the presidents of the Republics of Serbia and Croatia.

The SDP said it was for talks on Yugoslavia's future, and even talks between Serbian and Croatian leaders, but feels that the Yugoslav crisis cannot be resolved without talks on Bosnia-Hercegovina's position in the New Yugoslav community and the active participation of the republic and its residents.

Macedonia's Temporary Municipal Councils

LD1604183991 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1641 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Skopje, 16 Apr (TANJUG)—The Macedonian Assembly adopted at its session today a constitutional law according to which the Macedonian government is empowered to appoint seven-member executive councils as temporary governmental bodies in Tetovo and Gostivar. The temporary bodies will function until assemblies of these municipalities have been constituted. All deputies of the Party for Democratic Prosperity [Partija za Demokratski Prosperitet] and the National Democratic Party [Narodna Demokratska Partija] voted against this law, but the law was adopted because it received a two-thirds majority of votes.

Nuclear Plant Not Scheduled for Service in 1991

LD1704084191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0747 GMT 17 Apr 91

[Text] Krsko, Yugoslavia, April 17 (TANJUG)—Director of Yugoslavia's only nuclear power plant at Krsko, Staner Rozman, says that the Krsko plant will not be serviced this year. The servicing has been put off for 1992, which will cut the output of radioactive waste by 50 percent.

Rozman informs the press that there is no danger that Krsko might discontinue operation in 1992 due to an overflow of medium and low radiation waste.

The output of radioactive waste was reduced by 25 percent last year. The postponed servicing and a method of compressing waste containers under a one-thousand-ton press will make it possible for the Krsko nuclear power plant to use the existing waste dump by 1992 or 1993, Rozman says.

The Yugoslav Republics of Croatia and Slovenia will only in mid-1991 found public firms which will have charge of disposing of radioactive waste. According to Rozman, it will take another 18 months to obtain the necessary licence.

Rozman says that the licence is nowhere in sight, because the Krsko commune has put a stop to a public debate on changing the physical plan, which is a precondition for the licence to be issued. The debate has been discontinued because the Slovenian government has not replied to the Krsko commune's inquiry about the future of the nuclear power plant.

Last March, the Republics of Slovenia and Croatia agreed to continue to set aside funds for the safe operation of the power plant. Croatia reaffirmed its stand that it considered as unacceptable that the plant should be shut down before the expiry of its term of operation. Slovenia, in whose territory the power plant is situated,

will take a decision on the question either in the republican parliament or in a referendum. It is the Slovenian government's decision that the nuclear power plant be shut down in 1995.

This decision has prompted Krsko experts to draw up a decommission and decontamination plan. A preliminary decommission plan is to be commissioned soon. Rozman specifies that, under international standards, every nuclear power plant should have worked out such a document at least five years prior to its decommission.

Yugoslavia's only nuclear power plant, Krsko, with a rated power of 650 megawatt, was inaugurated in 1981, with an expectancy of operation of from 30 to 40 years. A contract signed between Slovenia and Croatia, which had financed the building of the plant, envisages that each should compensate the other in case there should be a change in the plant's operation.

Foreign Trade Deficit Increases

AU1604210191 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 9 Apr 91 p 23

[M. S. report: "The Deceptive Picture of the Average"]

[Text] Belgrade—According to the information that the representatives of the Federal Institute for Statistics presented to journalists at a news conference yesterday, the negative foreign trade balance amounts to $607 million. To be more precise, the coverage of imports by exports, which amounted to 95.1 percent in the first quarter of last year, has fallen in relation to the first three months of last year and stands at 87.8 percent.

Exports realized in the first three months of this year, worth $4.387 billion, 8.3 percent lower than exports realized in the same period last year. At the same time, Yugoslavia imported goods worth $4.994 billion, which represents only a slight decrease (0.8 percent) in comparison with the first three months of 1990.

Such results were only partly influenced by intercurrency changes in the previous period, and by the fact that some customs declarations were not processed. According to Mirjana Rankovic, the results were mainly influenced by rapidly declining trade with the countries of the former clearing account area.

In comparison with the first three months of 1990, exports to this market ($282 million) have fallen by 67.8 percent, and imports ($303 million) by 58.7 percent .

The case is reversed regarding the hard currency market, where exports increased by 5 index points, and imports by 9.1 percent. Finally, hard currency imports represent 94 percent of Yugoslavia's total imports and in the first quarter of this year amounted to $4.691 billion, which is 9.1 percent more than in the same period of last year.

In the first three months of this year, Serbia recorded the best export results. Its exports were worth $1.202 billion. Serbia was also the biggest importer ($1.491 billion).

The upward trend in trade with industrially developed countries is also noticeable (imports increased by 5.4 percent, and exports by 0.5 percent). At the same time, trade with the developing countries fell by approximately 10 percent in comparison with the same three months last year.

TV Journalists Call For Work Improvements

LD1604220191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1504 GMT 16 Apr 91

[Text] Belgrade, 16 Apr (TANJUG)—"The creation of a new authority for Belgrade Television will not only be possible through significant improvement in the quality of journalistic, editorial, and professional work as a whole. Only in this way can the news programs be preserved from all pressures, above all, political, and become truly objective and non-party," today's statement of the correspondent's office of Belgrade Television says.

More than 20 journalists and correspondents of Belgrade Television, signatories of the statement, warn that the news editors of the institution need, apart from a permanent management team, a new program and editorial concept, which will be the basis for the joint involvement of all editorial staff.

"Assessing that the development of events, and especially the divisions in the news programs, are not leading in this direction, we have decided as an integral part of these programs, to point out in this way, all the dangers that can arise out of such a situation," the statement concludes.